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Paper Lists Names of Imprisoned Americans

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries a statement by Gen. Dmitriy Volkogonov, chairman of the Russian side of the U.S.-Russian commission in charge of investigating the fate of American MIA's. "There is reason to believe that some of them are still alive and living at the present time on the territory of the former USSR," Volkogonov wrote. His statement was followed by a list, current as of 1954, of some 39 named individuals.

Russian Government Holds 'Unprecedented' News Conference

Moscow Radio reports that the Collegium of the Russian Government held a news conference on 31 July. Explaining why he was chosen instead of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to visit Japan, Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin said that "it is most likely that the territorial problems will not be discussed during my trip," adding that President Yeltsin "will have a whole package of documents on Russian-Japanese relations and we would prefer not to expand on this question to the press." ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI notes that First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko "assumed the role of main respondent," stressing that "the reforms do not spell revolution, but evolution." According to ITAR-TASS, Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha announced that defense orders in 1993 would "remain at this year's level."

Commenting on the "unprecedented press conference in terms of the number of government members who took part in it," Mikhail Berger of IZVESTIYA writes that "the main thing was not the content but the nature of the function." While the press conference "was designed to demonstrate the commonality of the views held by the old and new members of the Cabinet;...it was hard not to notice a certain degree of pluralism."

Azerbaijani Defense Minister's Resignation Issue Dropped

INTERFAX reports that "at present the issue on the Azeri Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev's resignation was dropped"; the minister continues to head the Defense Ministry. According to a military department representative, Gaziyev presented his resignation to the Supreme Soviet in order "to draw attention of the president and the government to the problems of his department." The Supreme Soviet did not adopt his resignation, "as this issue must be solved by the president."

Byelarus Begins Armed Forces Formation

Radio Rossii reports that Byelarus "is now forming its own armed forces units"; a mechanized brigade has been established. Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy said that "100 military units will be in existence by the end of the year."

Russian Troops To Withdraw From Byelarus

ITAR-TASS reports that "Russian troops will withdraw from Byelarus in seven years," according to the Byelarusian Supreme Soviet speaker. The speaker noted that "the strength of the Byelarusian Army will grow up to 100 thousand people."

Tajikistan's Nabiyev Issues Peace Accord Decree

Dushanbe Radio reports that Tajik President Rahmon Nabiyev issued a decree "on measures to speedily normalize the sociopolitical situation in the republic and implement the Khorog peace agreement", which involves the handing over of weapons at specified locations. In the decree, the president urged the prevention of the illegal supply of military arms and equipment to the republic. An amnesty period was institution for those who have illegally crossed the border, as long as they "voluntarily hand in their weapons" upon "return to the homeland via border posts".

Conditions for Cuts in Strategic Arms Listed

PM3107140592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jul 92 p 3

[Article by Lieutenant General Prof. Yevgeniy Volkov, doctor of technical sciences, under "Military Expert's Opinion" rubric: "So Is 3,000 Enough?"]

[Text] At their recent Washington summit the Russian Federation and U.S. presidents agreed to start preparations to reduce both sides' strategic offensive weapons by more than two-thirds. This agreement produced a lot of, often contradictory, reactions. In certain cases it has been claimed that the proposed cuts could be even deeper without detriment to the country's defense capability, at other times it is claimed that the planned level of cuts is impermissible and would virtually be a betrayal of Russia's interests. Both views are purely subjective. Their adherents do not even attempt to answer the question of just what level of strategic offensive weapons is actually needed. Without an answer to that question it is, of course, impossible to make a balanced assessment of the proposed cuts.

The most general assessment of the combat potential of strategic offensive weapons is made on the basis of the number of nuclear warheads carried on various platforms (ground-based and sea-launched ballistic missiles and strategic bombers). In 1991 the number of U.S. strategic offensive weapon warheads was approximately 10,500, the USSR had 10,200, France and Britain around 1,000, and the PRC several hundred.

The USSR and the United States had been holding talks on strategic offensive arms limitation and reduction for more than 20 years. The most notable results were achieved in recent years. In 1991 a treaty was signed in Moscow cutting them to the level of 6,000 warheads on each side. In Washington the Russian Federation and U.S. presidents agreed to reduce this to 3,000-3,500 warheads. How are these agreements to be assessed?

To establish what quantity of arms is required it is necessary to define the missions for which they are intended and the conditions under which they will be used. Strategic offensive weapons cannot be seen as a means of waging war. A war involving the massive use of nuclear weapons is impossible inasmuch as it would lead to the destruction of all life on earth. Their only role is to deter any possible aggressor (or aggressors) from attempting to start a war—including a nuclear war. The deterrent is provided by the ability of strategic offensive weapons to inflict unacceptable damage on an aggressor in the process of retaliation even under the most unfavorable conditions.

Strategic offensive weapons should most probably be seen first and foremost as designed for use in a retaliatory strike—that is, after action [vozdeystviye] has been taken by an enemy. In general this action could be carried out by nonnuclear forces (if the conflict begins with conventional warfare), nuclear weapons (if conventional warfare escalates into nuclear warfare), or ABM systems. On this basis an extremely important conclusion can be reached—the number of strategic offensive weapon warheads should not be less than the number of warheads needed to carry out a retaliatory strike mission (deterrence mission) and the possible number of warheads lost during all three of the above types of enemy action.

Determining what is a sufficient number of warheads to perform deterrence missions is exceptionally difficult. Most specialists set the figure at several hundred (around 500) modern strategic missile warheads. This means that cutting the number of warheads to 6,000 or 3,000 will not in itself deprive strategic offensive weapons of their ability to perform their deterrence mission. But in order to know whether they will really have the ability to do this we need to know the number of warheads that will be lost before than can be used. This is precisely the point that is most often overlooked by those who try to evaluate levels of cuts. And yet it is the central question.

Losses of strategic offensive weapons in a conventional war would be determined mainly by the use of precision airborne weaponry. As the Gulf War showed, such weapons are being rapidly developed [razvivat] in the United States and other NATO countries. And they already pose an entirely realistic threat to strategic offensive weapons. That threat will become all the more dangerous if strategic arms are cut while conventional offensive (above all, airborne) weapons are not cut to the same extent—the situation would be complicated still further in the event of any weakening of air defense systems.

Losses of strategic offensive weapons in a nuclear war could be very large (in the opinion of foreign specialists, up to 75 percent or more). Any cuts by one side will not lead to a corresponding reduction in losses, since the other side's strategic offensive weapons will be cut at the same time (the number of targets to be attacked will fall) and, moreover, cuts to nuclear systems will mainly affect the least sophisticated types of system. Incidentally, when discussing possible losses as a result of nuclear action it is necessary to bear in mind that, whereas previously the French and British strategic nuclear forces could be overlooked—since they comprised less than 10 percent of our forces in terms of warhead numbers—now the situation will change. Under the French and British strategic nuclear weapons modernization plans their warhead numbers will increase to 1,200—that is, 40 percent of our our figure (3,000). Under these circumstances it is no longer possible to overlook the NATO countries other than the United States.

And, finally, to turn to possible losses of missile warheads subjected to ABM system action. Despite the 1972 treaty, work on these systems in the United States continues to be intensive. Along with space-based systems they have now reached the full-scale testing and deployment stage. Cutting CIS (or Russian Federation)

strategic offensive weapons considerably simplifies the United States' task in creating [sozdaniye] an ABM system: The smaller the number of attacking warheads, the easier it is to destroy them. The United States is currently developing [razrabatyvat] so-called limited ABM systems. These are designed to intercept several hundred warheads. This number of warheads could remain combat capable even after the start of a conventional war and a nuclear strike against strategic nuclear weapons—if they are reduced to 3,000.

It is known that the Russian Federation and U.S. presidents agreed at the Washington summit to study opportunities for creating a global protection system. We should not, however, delude ourselves into thinking that we will be taking part in the work on the ABM system along with the United States. From the very outset the U.S. ABM systems have been created as a means of countering our country's missiles, and this will continue to be their main role. It is painful to read irresponsible and incompetent arguments claiming that the creation of these systems by the United States does not pose any threat to us and that therefore the 1972 treaty could be revised in order to allow the United States to create its own systems, including space-based systems. The appearance of such systems would have a major impact on the combat effectiveness of our strategic nuclear weapons and would essentially deprive them of any opportunity to carry out their deterrence mission.

Thus, the assessment of the state of affairs regarding the development of means of exerting influence would lead to depressing conclusions: These means continue to be improved, and there are no grounds for expecting a reduction in possible losses of strategic offensive weapons in line with the cuts to those weapons unless certain special measures are taken. The main measures of this type could include the following:

together with strategic offensive weapons cuts there should be simultaneous and equally deep cuts to nonnuclear weapons—primarily those posing a threat to strategic offensive weapons. Agreement should be reached (or an unambiguous statement issued) to the effect that, in the event of action being taken against strategic weapons during the nonnuclear phase of a war, the country whose strategic weapons they are is entitled to use them first;

the development of nuclear warfare systems should be aimed at improving their survivability rather than at improving the potential for destroying the other side's systems;

the development and deployment of ABM systems capable of destroying strategic missiles and their warheads should be totally banned;

when setting levels for strategic offensive weapons cuts CIS weapons should be compared to the weapons not only of the United States but of all the NATO countries.

We would note that none of these conditions would need considerable amounts of expenditure in order to be implemented. The main requirement for their implementation would be an agreement between the sides on the basis of a common concern to reduce the threat of war.

Now I can answer the question asked in the headline—is it permissible to cut our country's strategic offensive weapons to the level of 3,000 warheads? Yes it is, but only if the aforementioned conditions are met. Then, even after being cut, strategic offensive weapons would be able to retain the ability to perform the missions for which they were created and are being retained. If the above conditions are not met, this chance will be lost and strategic offensive weapons will essentially remain unnecessary and, consequently, pointless. They could be totally eliminated. But that is a different question—the question of whether it is permissible for our country to lose, wholly and finally, the ability to protect itself and defend its interests.

Moscow Hosts Conference on Nuclear Deterrence

LD3007180792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1238 GMT 30 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS—A conference "Nuclear Deterrence after Cold War" opened in the building of the Russian Parliament in Moscow on Thursday [30 July].

Addressing the conference, first deputy Russian defence minister, Andrey Kokoshin, said that the problem of ensuring reliable nuclear deterrence and prevention of another world war is one of the main elements of Russia's military doctrine.

Kokoshin said that nuclear deterrence is playing an important role in the policy of the United States of America and other nuclear powers.

"Therefore it is important to thoroughly discuss the problem to determine a new system of coordinates of nuclear deterrence and also to reveal the multi-measured situation which has emerged in the world and which greatly differs in its complexity from the recent past," Kokoshin pointed out.

He noted that although the Cold War is over, the problem of security still remains. It depends on the balance of forces, he said.

The participants in the conference will discuss a wide range of questions connected with the problem of nuclear deterrence, the role it plays in the constantly changing international, military and political situation, and also problems of cooperation with the United States in the field of "global protection" including anti- missile defence. The results of the discussions will be summed

up by the Parliamentary Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations and submitted to Parliament.

Does the threat of nuclear aggression from the United States remain? The Russian parliamentarians do not have a unanimous answer to the question, Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, said commenting on the problem.

He paid attention to the fact that some of his colleagues, the participants of a recent discussion on the Kuril Islands, expressed the opinion that "the United States in alliance with Japan remains our main adversary. This is where the alleged threat comes from, from those whom we are hastily calling allies," Ambartsumov said quoting these parliamentarians as saying.

When asked whether Russia and the United States could become strategic partners, the participants noted that life itself compels the two nuclear powers to make this step.

Proceeding from this position, parliamentarians, scientists and experts are to analyse the role of nuclear deterrence in the international military and political situation, and, in particular, the agreements reached between the Russian and American presidents on reduction of strategic offensive weapons.

Further on Conference

LD3007205692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1903 GMT 30 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS—The strategic arms limitation treaty START signed by Boris Yeltsin and George Bush is a result of the epoch when a radical transformation of the Russo-American relations began. This was said by parliamentarians and scientists who spoke on Thursday [30 July] in the Russian parliament house at a conference of experts "Nuclear Deterrence after the Cold War".

It was noted that, on the one hand, the treaty follows traditional models that formed in the period when the Soviet Union existed. On the other hand, it has formulated for the first time the idea of consolidating strategic stability and means a serious attempt at coordinating the positions of the sides in this direction.

Russia and the United States have achieved a new level of relations, experts believe. This is shown by planned unprecedented measures to verify the treaty's observance. They achieve a level of openness of the strategic potential of the two biggest nuclear powers unthinkable in the past. A tranfer from confrontation to constructive interaction is reason enough for the Russo-American treaty to be ratified at once, participants in the conference said.

They were unanimous in the view that the "infastructure of confidence" laid down by the treaty creates conditions for more decisive actions of the sides in the area of disarmaments. Speakers in the debate rejected as unfounded the thesis that the United States gets unilateral advantages in the military area under the START treaty.

Spokesman on Reduction in Strategic Weapons

LD3107161692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1435 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow July 31 TASS—The radical change in relations between Russia and the United States has made it possible to speed up the reduction of strategic offensive weapons, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department on Disarmament Yuriy Nazarkin told ITAR-TASS today.

A year ago, on July 31, 1991, in Moscow the former Soviet Union and the United States signed the treaty on limitation and reduction of strategic offensive weapons, that provides for the reduction of about 30 per cent of strategic nuclear carriers.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union created some additional difficulties in the fulfilment of the treaty, said Nazarkin. The main one is the achievement of agreements with former Soviet republics on whose territories the nuclear weapons are stored.

The complicated task was solved during a meeting of representatives of Russia, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and the United States, when the treaty on strategic offensive weapons was made a five-side document.

Speaking on the Russian president's U.S. visit, Nazarkin noted the importance of the Washington political agreement between George Bush and Boris Yeltsin to be the basis for a new bilateral treaty between Russia and the United States.

The document provides for a two-stage reduction of armaments. The first stage envisages the reduction of the overall level of military loads to a figure not exceeding for each side 3,800-4,250 units, 1,200 units for intercontinental ballistic missiles with multiple warheads, as well as other measures.

The second stages to be completed by the year of 2003, envisages the reduction of the overall level of military loads to 3,000-3,5000 units for each side, as well as the complete elimination of nuclear charges on ballistic missiles with multiple warheads.

"I hope the political agreement between the two presidents will soon become a bilateral treaty, and the disarmament process will actively go on," Nazarkin said in conclusion.

Problems With Destroying Chemical Weapons

LD3107113192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0610 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] [Announcer] Near the port of Kambarka in the Udmurt Autonomous Republic in central Russia there are reported to be big stockpiles of the deadly chemical warfare agent Lewisite. Disposing of the stockpile will be quite a problem but our science correspondent Boris Belitskiy has heard of some new ideas on the score. Boris, what did you hear?

[Belitskiy] First of all, let me explain that Lewisite is a vesicant. That is an agent that forms blisters on the skin, just like the notorious mustard gas of World War I fame. But unlike mustard gas, Lewisite has never been used in action. As for its stockpile in the Udmurt Republic, that's doomed to stay put for at least four or five years. The reason is that there is as yet no method for destroying Lewisite. It's therefore expected that a contest will be announced for the development of the safest and least expensive method of its destruction.

In the meantime however a group of scientists in Russia have proposed one such method which seems to be quite promising.

[Announcer] And how general is this problem Boris?

[Belitskiy] Well, in the Commonwealth of Independent States there is a total of nearly 40,000t [tonnes] of poison gases and something like 30,000 in the United States. This is a huge amount and the problem of destroying them is now quite a formidable problem. The method of destroying them that has been proposed, quite unexpectedly, originates with a group of scientists in Arzemas-16.

[Announcer] And what is that?

[Belitskiy] That's a formerly hush-hush town which is the home of Russia's Research Institute of Experimental Physics [as heard] which has been concerned with developing atomic and hydrogen bombs. Its deputy scientific head, Dr. Yuriy (Trubnev), has just proposed that these very bombs be used to destroy chemical warfare agents. Here he is, explaining his idea.

[(Trubnev), in Russian with English translation by Belitskiy] (Trubnev) says they're studying the problem of destroying chemical warfare agents, highly toxic wastes of the chemical industry and even nuclear warheads by nuclear explosions. To be sure the public is today highly allergic to underground nuclear explosions but it's simply uninformed in (Trubnev's) view of the fact that such explosions can be conducted in an ecologically clean manner, provided appropriate geological structures are chosen and the blasts are conducted at an adequate depth.

(Trubnev) says that he and his colleagues could demonstrate that chemical warfare agents can be destroyed in this way without dismantling. Other destruction technologies require that chemical weapons be dismantled and the poisonous chemicals be extracted from them. What's more the destruction of chemical weapons has to be not just 99 percent effective but 99.9999 etc. percent effective. A nuclear blast achieves just that. It turns the chemicals into plasma, after which only simple substances can be formed. Existing technologies on the other hand produce other substances and they too have to be buried.

(Trubnev) sees this dilemma. Either we keep storing the chemical warfare agents, running the risk of a chemical Chernobyl, or else, at a fraction of the cost, destroy them by means of an underground nuclear explosion. Back to (Trubnev):

(Trubnev) considers the technology sufficiently developed for a demonstration under international supervision. It's important he feels to convince the world public of this. Physicists are after all part of society and they cannot live in society and feel entirely independent of it.

Rome Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh Begin 1 Aug

LD0108122892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1108 GMT 1 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Bukalov]

[Text] Rome August 1 TASS—The fourth round of the meeting for preparing the international Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh officially opened here today.

Delegations led by ambassadors at large from 11 countries—Azerbaijan, Armenia, Byelarus, Germany, Italy, Russia, the United States, Turkey, France, Czechoslovakia and Sweden, as well as representatives of the Armenian and Azeri communities of Nagorno-Karabakh got together at the Madama Palace in Rome.

Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov, head of the Russian delegation, told ITAR-TASS that "the atmosphere of cautious optimism and the desire to overcome the deadlock was formed at the meeting."

The meeting, convened within the CSCE framework and chaired by the Italian diplomat Mario Raffaelli, is expected to continue its work until August 4.

Azeris, Turks Walk Out

LD0208164592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 2 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Bukalov]

[Text] Rome August 2 TASS—Representatives of Azerbaijan and Turkey walked out on Sunday [2 July] of the conference hall of the palace in Rome where the fourth round of the extraordinary meeting for the preparation of the Minsk international conference of CSCE on Nagorno-Karabakh is held. With a reference to chairman of the meeting, Mario Raffaelli of Italy, ANSA News Agency reported that the walk out had taken place after representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh declared themselves "the delegation of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh."

Delegates of the two communities of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian and the Azerbaijanian, participate in the meeting in Rome as representatives of "the concerned parties." This status gives them the right to address "working groups," but not plenary meetings. Raffaelli said the statement of representatives of Stepanakert does not mean that their claims are shared by the chairman of the meeting and all the eleven participants. Raffaelli believes the incident should not interfere with the continuation of the meeting in Rome. The purpose of CSCE is to convene a conference in Minsk to achieve a peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, Raffaelli said.

Turkish Official on Walk-Out

TA0208195992 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 1930 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] It has been announced that the difficulties encountered at the talks being held in Rome in a bid to solve the Karabakh problem have been surmounted and that the Azerbaijani delegation has returned to the talks. An official from the Turkish delegation at the talks, in a statement to Anatolia Agency, said: When Mario Raffaelli, the Italian parliamentarian who is the chairman of the Rome meeting, corrected his statement that caused the Azerbaijani delegation to walk out of the talks, the problem was solved and the official talks resumed in the evening. The Azerbaijani delegation walked out of the talks when Raffaelli referred to the Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh as the representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh and when the Armenians declared themselves the representatives of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Delegations Return to Talks

LD0208221792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2030 GMT 2 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Bukalov]

[Text] Rome, 3 Aug—The fourth round of the extraordinary session on the preparation of the CSCE Minsk conference on Nagorno- Karabakh resumed on the evening of 2 August with all the participants present.

Italian Ambassador Mario Raffaelli, who is chairing the session, informed ANSA that the delegations from both Turkey and Azerbaijan returned to the conference room of Villa Madama Palace in Rome.

As before, the meeting will continue behind closed doors today and tomorrow.

Western Group of Forces Denies Ammunition Link

LD0108182192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1152 GMT 1 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Berlin, 1 Aug—A large quantity of antitank mines and hand grenades have been found in a deserted building in Dresden. This was reported by the ADN news agency on Thursday, 30 July. According to the agency, the Dresden police suspected that this ammunition belonged to military units of the Western Group of Troops [WGT].

The WGT press center circulated a statement today stressing that the hasty assumption of a connection between this find and the WGT units deployed in the Dresden area has caused bewilderment in the WGT command. "A civilized investigation of any violation of the law must proceed on the basis of hard evidence and not on subjective estimations, the press center points out. We also think it appropriate to recall that it was not only WGT units but also the National People's Army of the former GDR and armies of other East European states which had Soviet ammunition. According to information provided by the WGT command, none of the units in its subordination has registered any theft of arms or ammunition."

Draft Agreement Reached on Minorities Rights

LD3107162592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 31 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In Minsk at the headquarters of the CIS work has been completed on drawing up of the draft agreement providing for the restoration of the rights of deported individuals, ethnic minorities and foreigners.

[Correspondent A. Zhuk] It is noteworthy that the experts representing the countries of the Commonwealth came to an agreement on all the disputed issues. In the agreement itself the formulas which were the most acceptable to all the sides were adopted. Here the initiative came from the Ukraine.

[Yu. Usatyy, permanent Ukraine representative in the CIS working group] For the first time the draft will provide them with all the necessary living and employment conditions, conditions for their education, for their national, cultural and spiritual development. In particular, should the need arise for unimpeded, voluntary resettlement, it will guarantee the above-mentioned individuals pension provision, provide assistance in obtaining credits for construction work, acquiring housing or improving housing, and a number of other benefits.

[Zhuk] Thus, the draft agreement has been drawn up in Minsk and now the last word lies with the leaders of the Commonwealth states, who are to meet next in Bishkek on 25 September.

Gromov on Formation of 2 Black Sea Fleets

LD0308094392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0655 GMT 3 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Aug—The command of the CIS Black Sea Fleet has consistently tried to vindicate the need to retain a united system of control of the Black Sea Fleet (BSF), which would make it possible to ensure the interests of all the countries of the Commonwealth in the south, Admiral Feliks Gromov, first deputy commander of the CIS BSF said today in an ITAR-TASS interview.

However, he noted, the points of contact between our position and the Ukrainian position have clearly been insufficient, while the decisions taken on the strategic forces at the meetings of the leaders of the CIS countries have given no key to the solution of the Black Sea problem.

From the beginning of this year up to the Dagomys meeting of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine—Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk—the process of talks on the BSF found itself essentially in a blind alley and skidding helplessly. The Russian and Ukrainian leaders were therefore obliged to make a decision on forming two national operational-strategic units on the Black Sea. Now they are faced with deciding the principles on which these fleets should be set up, Feliks Gromov said. In his opinion, there is some interest in the proposal of the coordination council of officers' meetings of the BSF to unite the Russian and Ukrainian fleet under a common operational command and to coordinate the use of the whole existing infrastructure of the fleet.

It should not be forgotten, the admiral recalled, that the BSF used to implement all tasks of naval defense in the southern sector in close cooperation with the Northern and Baltic Fleets. Such a capability should be maintained in the future, all the more so since Russia is not only one of the countries of the CIS to have signed the treaty on collective security but is also in essence its guarantor. At the same time Ukraine, having declared its status as a nonnuclear, neutral and nonbloc state, does not bear any responsibility for the security of its neighbors. Naturally, the tasks of its naval forces are seen to be more limited: coastal protection, maintaining an operational regime on the Black Sea and so on. Evidently these considerations will be influential in the determination of the specific make-up of the Russian and Ukrainian fleets. In this respect, Feliks Gromov pointed out, no common language with Ukraine has yet been found. As for the position of the command of the CIS BSF, it is this: Taking into account historical realities and the contribution of Russia to the creation of the BSF and its main base, Sevastopol, we should be talking of the formation of two equivalent fleets on the Black Sea, the admiral emphasized.

Baltic Border Controls Tightened Against Russia

LD3107224692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian border guards will make border control regime more strict for persons entering the Baltic states from Russia. Such a decision was made at a meeting of the heads of border controls service of the Baltic states that took place in Jurmala, Latvia. As stated, Ivars Radisons, a commander of Latvian border guard brigade, eastern borders of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have become an open route for international mafia, the center of which is in Moscow. Alongside it was decided to liberalize border control regime on Lithuanian-Latvian and Latvian-Estonian borders, as well as to simplify border crossing routes for people living near the border.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Aug

LD0208020992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2351 GMT 1 Aug

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 1 (TASS)—"Turkmenistan is the last of the possible Asian partners to form an alliance with Russia. This actually finished the creation of the

Russian-Asian confederation, formed on the basis of the USSR", NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes, commenting on the signing of a treaty of friendship and cooperation by the presidents of the two republics on Friday [31 July]. "Russia's alliance with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan means that it preserves its influence in the Middle East", the newspaper believes.

Moscow newspapers devote much attention to the acute economic problems. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA point to the possible dangerous consequences for the economic reform of a telegram, sent recently by Viktor Gerashchenko, new acting chairman of the Board of the Central Bank, to all the banks. It follows from the telegram that the Central Bank intends to grant credits for covering mutual non-payments and debts of enterprises running into billions of roubles. Newspapers quote Pyotr Filippov, one of the leaders of the reform coalition in the Russian parliament, as saying that this will result in the issuing of 1.5 trillion roubles before the end of the year and in the inflation rate of 70 to 80 per cent.

Sixty farmers' strike committees have been created in Russia, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes. It describes the situation with the harvesting campaign as alarming. The conflict is connected with the demand of the farmers to raise purchasing prices of grain, to which the government does not agree, the newspaper recalls. A little more than one million tonnes of grain has been sold to the state so far, while the contracts envisage the sale of 24 million tonnes. The current volume of grain purchases is nine times smaller than the corresponding figures for 1991.

According to the estimates of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, which analyses trends at the currency auction, held by the Moscow Inter-Bank currency exchange, the rouble exchange rate will continue to decline and will reach 170-180 roubles per U.S. dollar by next autumn.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with the USSR ex- president under the heading "once a month with Gorbachev". He expressed his opinion of a number of topical issues, specifically, the economic and political situation in Russia, the conflict around IZVESTIYA, the hearings of the CPSU case at the Constitutional Court and the investigation into last August's coup attempt. Gorbachev described the situation in Russia as "complicated and even dangerous" and pointed out that unless the government finds quickly the way to overcome the food crisis and the decline in production, the moment may come when "the political process is taken into their hands by the most dangerous elements seeking to get us back to the past or to establish the regime that will not differ from the old one, or perhaps will be even worse".

"The disintegration of the USSR destabilised the situation in Eurasia. There exists a real danger that the process of the formation of sovereign states will develop in the same way as in Yugoslavia. The intensification of armed conflicts between former union republics may lead to a direct interference of the West (of the NATO forces)," said Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnichenko, Russia's first deputy chief of general staff, addressing a session of the non-governmental council for foreign and defence policy. A report on the session is published by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

PRAVDA carries three articles dealing with the continuing hearings of the CPSU case at the Russian Constitutional Court. One of them is an interview with Yuriy Ivanov defending the CPSU at the trial, who is at the same time the lawyer of Vladimir Kryuchkov, former KGB chief and now one of the defendants for the case of the state emergency committee. Ivanov actually confirmed all facts about the tapping by the KGB of the conversations of leaders of the Democratic Movement, but specified that all this had been done on the direct order of USSR ex-President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The trial of the state emergency committee case will not begin too soon, Russian Prosecutor-General Valentin Stepankov said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. According to Stepankov, the defendants and especially their lawyers are in no hurry to familiarise themselves with the investigation documents and "show no interest in the case being referred to the court as soon as possible".

Russian nuclear power engineering is far from reliable. This conclusion follows from the public opinion poll conducted by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. It polled some 200 specialists and heads of a number of nuclear power plants, research institutes and other institutions connected with nuclear power engineering. They evaluated their essential parametres by the five-mark system. Evaluating the reliability and safety of the existing nuclear power plants, the probability of major acts of sabotage and so on, most specialists gave the "2" mark.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA devotes a whole page to fragments of a book by Boris Oleinik, former member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy to the USSR parliament, which is being prepared for publication. The book, provisionally entitled "prince of the darkness", is about Mikhail Gorbachev.

'Still Alive' Imprisoned Americans Listed

MK3107175192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Jul 92 Second Edition p 2

[Statement by General Dmitriy Volkogonov, cochairman of the Russian-American commission clarifying the fate of U.S. citizens who disappeared without trace; date, place not given; followed by list of names, personal details; all personal names as transliterated: "U.S. Citizens Could Still Be Living on the Territory of the Former USSR"]

[Text] [Volkogonov begins] In the Russian-American commission's work on discovering the fate of U.S. citizens missing in action during and after World War II, more and more new documents are being pulled from archives which until recently were top secret. Of particular interest are some documents recently discovered in their archives by Russian Security Ministry personnel.

It turns out that during and after World War II, as a result of combat action, changes to borders, repatriation, internment, and other conflicts caused by the war, a significant [znachitelnyy] group of U.S. citizens found themselves on the territory of the former USSR. Among them were 39 people who had American passports or who were born in the United States but whose nationality was Ukrainian, Byelorusian, Lithuanian, Russian, and so on.

As can be seen from the documents, the appropriate organs worked with them to try to persuade them to renounce American citizenship. Those who refused to sign statements to this effect were immediately given 15 to 25 years in the camps for "espionage." The majority of those who agreed effectively became Soviet citizens. There is reason to believe that some of them are still alive and living at the present time on the territory of the former USSR.

At the present time the commission is working to find them, so that the injustice done to them can be righted and they can be enabled to make contact with relatives now living in the United States. This work involves difficulties resulting from the remoteness of the events and the possibility that those involved could be living in the sovereign states formed on the territory of the former USSR. Because of this we are publishing a list of citizens in this category, and we request them and anyone who knows what happened to them to write or telephone the commission to discover the fate of U.S. citizens missing in action during and after World War II at the following address: 103132, Moscow, Ilyinka 12, telephone (095) 206-33-04.

[Signed] Dmitriy Volkogonov, chairman of the Russian section of the Russian-American commission for the affairs of American POW's and MIA's [Volkogonov ends]

List of persons regarded in 1954 as Soviet citizens, third-country citizens, or stateless persons, but holding American passports and residence permits.

1. Sagatas, Adel Aleksandrovna, born 1906, native of Rokishkis, Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], a Lithuanian.

2. Berko, Irina (Iren) Mikhaylovna, born 1925, native of Braddock, United States, Ukrainian; was living in Rodatychi village, Gorodokskiy Rayon, Lvov Oblast.

3. Dovgulevich, Stepan (Stefan) Stepanovich, born 1927, native of New York, Belorussian, was living in Donetsk Oblast.

4. Fedak, Mariya Petrovna, born 1903, native of the United States, Hungarian, and her children, were living in Transcarpathian Oblast.

5. Dragula, Anna Dmitriyevna, native of Transcarpathian Oblast, and her children—Vasiliy (Charli) Fedorovich, born 1923; Fedor (Frenk) Fedorovich, born 1930; Mariya (Meri) Fedorovna, born 1925; Margarita (Margarret) Fedorovna, born 1929; Ivan (Dzhon) Fedorovich, born 1928, who were living in the city of Mukachevo, Transcarpathian Oblast.

6. Severinchik, Pavel (Paul) Kirillovich, born 1917, native of Chicago, was living in Brest Oblast.

7. Koretskaya (Kolodiy), Mariya Vasilyevna, born 1919, native of New York, was living in Slovita village, Glinyanskiy Rayon, Lvov Oblast.

8. Rudyk, Luetta (Lietta), born 1890, native of Passaic, United States, was living in Lvov Oblast.

9. Nikitchik, Daniil (Daniel) Danilovich, born 1936, and his brother Nikitchik, Fedor, born 1927, natives of Chicago.

10. Semko, Mikhail (Mikhael) Ivanovich, and his brother Semko, Ivan (Yan) Ivanovich, born 1922, natives of Omrod [as transliterated], United States, were living in Petrichi village, Krasnoyarskiy Rayon, Lvov Oblast.

11. Ignatyuk, Aleksandr Andreyevich, born 1910, native of New York, Byelorusian, was living in Brest Oblast.

12. Kesselman, Lenneta (Linnet) Iosifovna, born 1930, native of New York, was living in Barnaul, and her brother Kisselman, Bernard, who was living in Gorkiy.

13. Korishchin (Karizhin), Bogdan Ivanovich, born 1921, native of New York, was living in Grimaylov, Ternopol Oblast.

14. Gitska, Ivan Vasilyevich, born 1917, and his brother, Gitska, Mikhail Vasilyevich, born 1920, natives of Wilmington, United States, were living in Drogobychskaya Oblast.

15. Krivenko, Yuriy (Georgiy) Mikhaylovich, born 1924, native of the United States, was living in Beregovo, Transcarpathian Oblast.

16. Megits, Vasiliy (Bazil), born 1916, and his brothers Stepan (Stefan) Dmitriyevich, born 1918, and Fedor Dmitriyevich, born 1920, natives of New York, were living in Tarnava village, Dobromilskiy Rayon, Drogobychskaya Oblast.

17. Kazun, Valentina Vasiliyevna, born 1933, and Kazun, Vladimir Vasiliyevich, born 1935, natives and inhabitants of Shepets village, Ostrinskiy rural soviet, Vasilizhkovskiy Rayon, Grodno Oblast.

18. Blyakh, Grigoriy Pavlovich, born 1932, native and inhabitant of Striyevka village, Zbarazhskiy Rayon, Ternopol Oblast.

19. Tseslyak, Mechislav Vatslavovich, born 1910, native of the United States, was living in Grodno Oblast.

20. Kazanskaya, Sofiya Vikentyevna, born 1913, native of Detroit, United States, was living in Stryy, Lvov Oblast.

21. Marshall, Iozas (Dzhozef), son of Kazis, born 1897, native of Utica, United States, and his wife Marshall, Paulina, daughter Antanasa, born 1903 [as published] and daughter Marshall, Aldona, born 1926, were living in Kaunas.

22. Fernades de La-Vega, Frantsisko Manuelovich, born 1915, Spanish, native of the United States, was living in Moscow.

23. Yarema (Dzharema), Dzhon Andreyevich, born 1918, native of Irgas [as transliterated], (United States) [parentheses as published], was living in Pyatnitsa village, Dobromilskiy Rayon, Drogobychskaya Oblast.

24. Yasinskas, Frensis (Pranas), born 1910, native of Brooklyn, United States, was living in Prenskiy Uyezd, Lithuanian SSR.

25. Myuller Ida, born 1893, German.

Reports on Yeltsin's Upcoming Visit to Japan

Groups Work on 'Peace Treaty'

LD0108094392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The governments of Russia and Japan have reached agreement in principle on an exchange of visits by the foreign ministers of the two countries, which should complete the preparations for the visit by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin to Tokyo planned for mid-September.

This was reported today by the newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN. According to its information, it is proposed that Michio Watanabe, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Japan, will go to Moscow on 29 August, where he will meet Boris Yeltsin and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The latter, in turn, will visit Japan sometime during the first ten days of September, just before President Yeltsin's visit. It is expected that during the visits by the two ministers much attention will be paid to coordinating the text of the joint statement that is expected to be adopted on the results of the Russian president's visit.

At the meeting of the Russian-Japanese working group on a peace treaty, which took place in mid-July in Tokyo, the sides exchanged drafts of this document. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, however, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the key territorial question was left blank in both drafts.

Poltoranin Plan for Kurils Reported

OW0108122192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 1 KYODO—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin proposed Saturday establishing a 10- to 15-year transitional period to settle a decades-long territorial dispute between Russia and Japan.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Poltoranin urged Japan to provide Russia with economic compensation to resolve the dispute over four Russian-held islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Poltoranin is scheduled to arrive in Tokyo on Monday for a six- day visit. While in Tokyo, the vice premier will meet Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

The dispute over the islands, which the Soviet Red Army seized from Japan at the end of World War II, has been the main stumbling block in postwar bilateral relations.

Demanding their return, Tokyo has refused to sign a peace treaty with Moscow or provide major financial aid until the dispute is resolved.

Poltoranin said he was speaking on the premise that Russia would implement a 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration in which Moscow promised to return the two smaller islands upon conclusion of a peace treaty.

As interim measures for the transitional period, the Russian vice premier called for banning any military installations on the islands and for compensating residents who do not want to remain there.

Poltoranin said Russia and Japan need to discuss how to deal with residents who want to stay on the two islands, Shikotan and the Habomais.

Russia has the right to demand compensation from Japan for economic losses suffered from the return of the islands, he said, adding that Russian experts would calculate the loss amount.

He indicated Russia would study Japan's proposal to continue talks on the ownership of the larger islands, Kunashiri and Etorofu, saying it contains a way toward progress.

Poltoranin Departs To Prepare Visit

LD0208201592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2000 GMT 2 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin left for a visit to Japan on Sunday. The main purpose of his visit is to prepare President Boris Yeltsin's trip to Japan in the autumn. Poltoranin confirmed that in resolving the Kurils problems Yeltsin will proceed from the 1956 treaty, Russian Television said in the evening news programme. The treaty envisages the return of two Kuril Islands to Japan.

Poltoranin intends to meet the Japanese prime minister, foreign minister, businessmen, representatives of the media. The problem of the Kurils will undoubtedly be discussed during the visit. "I believe the president's stand has long been clear", Poltoranin said. "The president and Russia in general adhere to the positions of the 1956 agreement. This is the position to which the president adheres and to which the parliament and government should adhere, too", Poltoranin said.

Arrives 3 Aug

LD0308094792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0909 GMT 3 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovin]

[Text] Tokyo August 3 TASS—Mikhail Poltoranin, Russian deputy prime minister and Russian minister for the press and information, arrived in Tokyo on Monday at the invitation of the Japanese Government.

Poltoranin's visit to Japan is being carried out within the framework of preparations for the visit to Japan of Russian President Boris Yeltsin due in September.

At the airport, Poltoranin told TASS that in the present situation the sides should search for compromises to improve relations bewteen the two states, which have not signed a peace agreement since World War II was over.

Bilateral agreements, previously signed by the former Soviet Union and which Russia is observing, should serve as a basis for it, Poltoranin said.

"I think the problem should be resolved but without detriment to Russia's interests," Poltoranin said, speaking, in particular, on the prolonged territorial dispute between the two countries over the Kuril Islands.

Poltoranin is expected to stay in Japan till August 8.

During the visit, he is expected to meet with the Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and businessmen.

Poltroranin will also make a trip to the island of Okinawa in the south of Japan.

Kozyrev on Yeltsin's Trip to Japan

LD3107141192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1322 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jul—Preparations for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan are proceeding with the active participation of the government, parliament, and representatives of the interested regions and the public. This was stated by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today at the news conference by the collegium of the Russian Government. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin's trip to Tokyo is being made within the framework of preparations for the visit and in accordance with the strategic line drawn up by the Foreign Ministry for developing wide-ranging relations with Japan, the minister noted.

As it implements the decision to reduce its personnel abroad, the Russian Foreign Ministry will proceed from the principle of reasonable sufficiency, Andrey Kozyrev stressed. "Diplomatic tasks have to be tackled not by numbers but by ability." The reorganization, which is being carried out at the initiative of the Foreign Ministry itself, cannot be measured with raw figures. The main criterion here should be the national interests of Russia, "a power with global interests that must be represented in all regions of the world."

Sakhalin Governor Opposes Visit

OW0208094192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0918 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia, Aug. 2 Tokyo [dateline as received]—Sakhalin Governor Valentin Fedorov said Sunday that Russian President Boris Yeltsin should postpone his visit to Japan in September because Russia's deteriorating economy would weaken his hand in negotiations over a decades-long territorial dispute.

Fedorov, in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, said Yeltsin would have to negotiate from a weakened position over disputed islands if he visits Tokyo as scheduled.

Yeltsin's Japan visit is to start September 13. While in Tokyo for a few days, Yeltsin will hold two rounds of summit talks with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The talks will focus on the dispute over Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan Islands and the Habomai group of islets, which the former Soviet Union seized from Japan at the end of World War II.

The governor of Sakhalin, whose authority covers the disputed islands, said that if Yeltsin goes ahead with the

visit, he will go to the islands to organize a movement against their return to Japan.

The Russian parliament Tuesday began closed door hearings at which the Russian Foreign Ministry submitted a document supporting the return of two smaller islands, Shikotan and the Habomais.

A local television station Sunday broadcast the results of a survey which indicate that one-third of the residents on the islands oppose their return to Japan, while another third support their return and the rest are undecided.

But Fedorov said the one-third who favor returning the islands to Japan only do so because they believe they would have a better standard of living if incorporated into Japanese territory.

Japan has long called for the return of all the disputed islands, known in Japan as the northern territories, which lie to the northeast of its northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Fedorov said that even if the Russian leadership decides in favor of returning the islands, patriotic sentiment would lead people to prevent it.

The Sakhalin governor also proposed that an area including the Kamchatka Peninsula, all the islands in the Kuril chain, and part of Hokkaido be declared open to visa-free travel by residents of both countries.

Yeltsin on Upcoming Talks With Kravchuk, Zhelev

LD0308090492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 3 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Before departing Moscow, the Russian president was interviewed by our special correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Ostankino 1. What does the Russian president plan to propose to Ukraine and, later, to Bulgaria?

[Yeltsin] The meeting with Kravchuk is about the mechanism for implementing the Dagomys agreement. Some things are working out and some are still not. The Black Sea Fleet is one of the most complex questions. The commissions which were set up in our countries failed to agree. The ministers of defense who met did not reach an agreement. It is up to the presidents.

As far as Bulgaria is concerned, the main task is this: The period of validity for the treaty between the former Soviet Union and Bulgaria has already expired. Therefore we have a kind of vacuum, as it were. For several months now a treaty has been under preparation. When President Zhelev was here we agreed to draw up such a treaty, and the draft of such a treaty has been drawn up. The most important thing is to hold talks and to thereby reanimate our relations and cooperation, not only also to raise them to a higher level but also to sign the treaty. [end recording]

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian at 0547 GMT on 3 August reports more on Yeltsin's departure for Ukraine. The agency cites Vyacheslav Kostikov, the president's press secretary, as telling journalists that "Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan will take place as scheduled."]

Yeltsin Leaves for Ukraine

LD0308063892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0524 GMT 3 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, August 3—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today left for the Crimea for a summit with Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk. The main theme of their talks is expected to be the Black Sea Fleet. The summit is scheduled to begin at noon, with a briefing on the outcome two hours later and a joint press conference at 1700. The summit has been officially announced as taking place in Yalta. According to some reports, however, the venue for the talks will be one of the villas on the Crimea's southern coast—possibly the former residence of Mikhail Gorbachev in Foros.

Aircraft Factory Sells 20 Su-27's to China

LD0208223192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] For the first time in many years we are again selling military equipment to China. Twenty Su-27 fighters have just been sold to Beijing by the aircraft factory in Komsomolsk-on-Amure.

PRC, Taiwan Eye Purchase of Aircraft Carrier

LD0208223892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Evidently a brighter future awaits Russian businessmen, in contrast to the diplomats. This is true at least in the Far East, where there is increasing talk of trade in arms from the former Union. For instance, reports have appeared that China is negotiating through the Norwegians on the purchase of the Varyag aircraft carrier, on which construction is being completed at Ukrainian wharves. If the Chinese Navy obtains its first aircraft carrier, its military might will increase significantly.

According to Taiwan, this will create a serious security threat in the region. As a retaliatory measure, the Taiwanese are thinking about acquiring modern military systems from other former Soviet republics.

Evidently there is plenty of work for businessmen at the moment.

Spokesman on Troop Withdrawal, Honecker Departure

LD3107192992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1730 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Report on news conference by Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Directorate, by station correspondent Aleksandr Kozhin, at the Foreign Ministry press center on 31 July; Yastrzhembskiy's recorded remarks within quotation marks]

[Text] A briefing on current problems of international politics took place in the Russian Foreign Ministry Press Center. Over to our correspondent Aleksandr Kozhin.

[Kozhin] At the beginning of the briefing, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Directorate of Information and the Press, expressed the opinion that the general situation in the Near East is improving. During the sixth round of talks planned to begin on 24 August in Washington, he said, Russia intends to act in coordination with the other cochairman, the United States.

At the meeting with journalists, the representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs read out a statement in connection with the campaign around the withdrawal of Russian troops, which has been unleased in some of the Polish mass media.

"According to the Polish version, the pilfering of property, war materiel, the handing over of military facilties in an unfit state, and illegal operations circumventing the customs regulations in force are being ascribed to Russian troops. Of course, such facts cannot be excluded completely. Apparently at issue, however, are just individual cases. It would be unjust, to say the least, to accuse servicemen of the Northern Group of Forces of all these sins. At the same time, measures taken by the Polish authorities to ban repair work at a number of military installations of the Northern Group of Forces, the take-off of transport aviation from several airports, and the setting up of posts around Russian military units are illegal.

We believe that the present campaign is being consciously initiated in order to justify somehow the blunders made by the Polish side in fulfilling the commitments regarding lending aid in accommodating the Russian units withdrawn from Polish territory. We think that this is not the time for mutual reproaches and insults. The main thing is to implement the agreements reached with Walesa, president of the Republic of Poland, during his official visit to Moscow. For its part, the Russian leadership intends to continue firmly and steadfastly to observe the set timetable for troop withdrawal."

[Kozhin] In reply to a question concerning Honecker's departure from Moscow, Yastrzhembskiy stated:

"According to the information I have, when the question of Honecker's fate was being decided—when it was being decided that he should leave the territory of the Chilean Embassy—no actions were taken on his part which would have called into question the voluntary nature of that decision, and the voluntary nature of his action aimed at fulfilling the request of the Chilean side. No violence, no force, was brought to bear upon Honecker, either by representatives of the Ministry of Security or, of course, by diplomats. I stress that we were satisfied and even to a certain extent pleasantly surprised by the fact that everything went rather smoothly and calmly, and that Honecker displayed common sense."

Foreign Ministry Said Closing 50 Embassies

LD0208210792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Video report from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposals are being developed to reduce sharply the number of Russian diplomatic missions abroad. The reason is simple: There is no money. As RIA reports, the closure of approximately 50 embassies and consulates is planned. Another planned move is for many Russian ambassadors to hold more than one office in two or three states at once.

Kozyrev on CIS Relations, Ministry

LD0208203892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1645 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister A.V. Kozyrev by program host Sergey Korzun; IZVESTIYA political observer Konstantin Egert; Andrey Cherkizov, Ekho Moskvy radio political observer; and unidentified callers telephoning questions into the Ekho Moskvy radio studio; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Korzun] I must compliment you before the correspondents ask what I hope will be very difficult questions: You don't look bad at all; in fact, you don't look any different than the last time. The first brief question: Is it diplomatic resourcefulness which allows you to keep your looks? Or is it just that there's not much work at the Foreign Ministry?

[Kozyrev] We don't want to change. We in the Russian Foreign Ministry have been working within the set regime toward democratic transformations. We do not want to change externally or internally.

[Korzun] That is a luxury. I envy you. Just a second, Andrey Cherkizov. There is another question. It may be introductory since many correspondents are here for your visit. Even television has come for this visit, undoubtedly over your 30 June article in IZVESTIYA, which is represented here by Konstantin Egert. As far as I know, you have not given any interviews since. Rumors

are circulating among correspondents that you have simply been forbidden to speak. We see now that this is not true. Or are you actually violating a ban?

[Kozyrev] No. However, I think that Ekho should make clear that we have agreed to stop polemics between government members, between cabinet members. I think that this decision is correct. Incidentally, I was the last to resort to public polemics. I said that I was prepared to be the first to renounce public polemics. Unfortunately, a number of press centers continue direct polemics with me. I hope, however, that this accord will be observed by everyone and not just by one side. This does not mean that I cannot express my opinion on fundamental issues without moving onto personalities and without moving onto departments.

[Korzun] I understand that Andrey Cherkizov has one such fundamental question.

[Cherkizov] Yes. Here is my first question—and, I hope, my last question, since I very much want radio listeners to ask you questions: Will you resign or not?

[Kozyrev] No, I do not intend to resign. Such rumors are exaggerations. I think that they have been incited deliberately by someone to see whether I can withstand a blow. I think we learned about this a year ago, however, when I met you and had to withstand many blows in that small, private residence. You cannot surprise me with this. Rumors don't surprise me, either. However, I have no intention of resigning. The parallel between myself and Shevardnadze, say, is not quite correct because I am not resigning—I intend to carry on the struggle to maintain and develop this policy—because I do not feel that the president has departed from this policy, and because I was speaking less about the direct threat of a coup than about the danger of a wave of neo-Bolshevism or of a party of war which is ready to swamp the public awareness. I wanted to mobilize public awareness against this danger. I have no reason to go.

[Korzun] One more question, Andrey Vladimirovich. I will not ask your view on this subject, for I understand that, but what do you think about those who say that Russia should be a state? Where do you think they are mistaken? Where do they trip up?

[Kozyrev] Russia is quite simply fated to be a state, and a great state at that. That is an objective fact, if you like. There is no question of whether or not we want it. It is quite simply an objective fact. There is only one road to a great state, namely the democratic road. The road our opponents propose—namely, as you say, to an imperial state, a state threatening others, including our CIS neighbors, and propounding the besieged-fortress mentality, the psychology of mistrust of the United States and other Western countries and of other democratic states—is a dead end, a road leading nowhere, an antipatriotic road. I do not know why we are accustomed to calling these people patriots. They are nothing of the sort. The Soviet Union's road demonstrated that this definition of the state leads to collapse. The Soviet Union collapsed. The Soviet Union failed to withstand competition with the West economically and militarily. As for standards of living, we are a developing country and a great state. To go further down the same road would mean losing the status of a great state and essentially slipping into the abyss, being wiped from the political map. The road to realizing our potential for being a great state is the one you mentioned, the democratic, peaceful road of carrying out dynamic economic reform. Any other road is the way to objective self-destruction, simply masochism.

[Korzun] [passage omitted] I think it is now Konstantin Egert's turn to ask a provocative question.

[Egert] Good evening, Andrey Vladimirovich. More and more rumors are circulating in the Russian parliament about setting up a special Commonwealth affairs ministry headed by a vice premier. I personally feel that such a move would merely mean setting up a ministry for affairs of the former colonies, a word which is of course unacceptable to the independent states surrounding us. How would you comment on the current fight being fought on this issue in the government?

[Kozyrev] It is particularly nice that IZVESTIYA asks this question. I am grateful to IZVESTIYA for publishing my interview....

[Egert, interrupting] That wasn't me; that was Andrey Ostalskiy.

[Kozyrev] That's right. However, I mentioned the idea of a ministry or department for Commonwealth affairs as an independent subdepartment in the government in a signed article in your newspaper sometime in March. Generally speaking, this concept is justified. I supported this view in the past and support it to some extent now. We can learn from the experience of Britain and France, which set up commonwealth ministries after their empires disintegrated.

On the other hand, I agree with your criticism that such decisions may lead our former Republics, the CIS states, our neighbors, to believe that we do not treat them as they deserve. Therefore, I think this issue must be discussed. I would not want to take the view of either side in this respect. However, it is up to the president and the government to decide how to act. I feel that this question is not yet being addressed. For the time being, we will have to combine the traditional Foreign Ministry and the Commonwealth affairs ministry.

[Korzun] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev is our guest today. I believe that was a warm-up. All the correspondents are eager to get into battle. Nevertheless, I propose that callers call us on 925-1724 during the main part of the program. The correspondents will have to wait for answers to their remaining questions.

[Caller] Mr. Minister, how much longer do you intend to work on provoking war? As Leyba Trotskiy's spiritual heir, are you not afraid of being done in with an ice pick? Thank you.

[Korzun] To tell you the truth, I think some questions need not be answered. However, you have the right to answer the question.

[Kozyrev] Why not? This is a good question. As far as I can understand, we have the party of war which traditionally tries to point to its neighbor and to turn any matter inside out. Let us now forget the views of that party and sort out the essence of this question. This is an interesting question. Let us recall that the CPSU tackled interethnic problems for 70 years not by means of persuasion, not by means of democratic methods, but by evicting whole nations and by banning the historical memory of nations. This is why we have been supporting the tendency of states and peoples to defend their right to self-determination as states and nations on the territory of the former Union, since that has proved to be an inevitable process. We are not to blame for the fact that the Union leadership, headed by the same party, renounced two years ago, then a year ago, then last autumn.... [changes thought] You may recall my speeches in IZVESTIYA. We begged the Union leadership to opt for setting up coordinating rather than dictating mechanisms to preserve the Soviet Union in a new form, as a union of equal partners. You will also recall that blood was shed in the Dniester region, South Ossetia, and Nagorno-Karabakh while all three areas were still part of the former Soviet Union.

I fear that it will be proved.... [changes thought] It is no secret to anyone that these conflicts were aggravated greatly by the Union leadership—under the CPSU's leadership and probably with the involvement of certain special services—to prove that it was essential to preserve the Soviet Union at any cost and that interethnic problems cannot be resolved democratically. What do I intend to do? I intend to continue efforts to try and reach agreement on further mechanisms of integration, including trying to reach agreement on creating armed peace-keeping forces to replace the involvement and inveiglement of the former Soviet Army in armed conflicts. The peace-keeping forces would be based on international law and on interrepublican agreement. They would not inflame armed conflicts any further but would disengage the warring sides and support peace in these Republics. This is what we intend to do. I think this is where the key difference lies between our party and the war party. The war party also mentions using armed forces; however, the traditional Bolshevist understanding is that this is used as punishment, repression, deportation, and so on. This led nowhere in 70 years and hasn't resolved a single issue. Our way is difficult, but it is based on law. I think that is where the future lies. [passage omitted]

[Caller] Please interpret the word power for us. I think of power as an ordinary, strong state enjoying influence. Or is there something I haven't understood correctly?

[Korzun] Thank you for the question.

[Kozyrev] First, thank you very much for your support. It is always nice to hear people quote from your own interview. I think your reply is absolutely correct. A power is simply a large, powerful state. Our power, however, will increase only through successful democratic and economic reforms and not through strengthening the war party and increasing military muscle. We went through that for 70 years. I repeat: We are among the most underdeveloped states when it comes to standards of living and the quality of the environment.

[Korzun] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is on the air with Ekho Moskvy at 925-1724. This is Ekho Moskvy. Good evening.

[Caller] Good evening, Andrey Vladimirovich. I have an important question for you: Are you superstitious? Briefly, are you just a bit superstitious?

[Kozyrev] To some extent.

[Caller] You are to some extent. Is it not a bad sign when the center of Moscow, the center of Russia, is soiled by a cemetery surrounding the Kremlin? What do you think? Is it not time to clear this area? Thank you.

[Kozyrev] Of course, this is not exactly international affairs. Generally speaking, it's unpleasant. On the other hand, perhaps there is something in these traditions. I have seen cemeteries in other states—some in the center—where so-called contentious historical figures lie. Perhaps we should adopt this attitude. Whether pioneers should not be taken there is another matter. You should not think that there is some kind of spiritual link with those lying there. Shifting the graves is.... [changes thought] I don't know a way out of this situation. Honestly, I am worried more by the fact that they are now rising from the grave and seem to be reoccupying the same cabinets.

[Korzun] Andrey Vladimirovich, you must agree that it is somewhat worrying to hear listeners ask you questions using the phrase soiled by a cemetery. I think these words are incompatible. A cemetery is a sacred place. I do not think anything can be soiled by it, no matter who lies under the earth.

[Kozyrev] I think this is a question of editing. If this were an article, if someone wrote an article, he would probably edit it. This may have been an off-the-cuff remark. Perhaps it was not quite felicitous. It seems to me that I am probably not speaking in a quite literary manner at present. I ask that you make allowances for me in this sense.

[Korzun] Good evening. You're on the air.

[Caller] Good evening. Respected Andrey Vladimirovich, is Stankevich seriously being considered for the Commonwealth affairs department?

[Korzun] Thank you for your question.

[Kozyrev] I do not know anything about that.

[Korzun] A question from Radio Liberty's (Dmitriy Volchik).

[Caller] Andrey Vladimirovich, in your IZVESTIYA interview you discussed the fact that a number of departments—in the first instance, the Russian Security Ministry—were giving the country's current leadership disinformation. This provoked quite a harsh reaction in the ministry itself. You were accused of an undemocratic approach, that this was all a lie. Do you have any arguments? How would you answer the speakers from the ministry's public relations department?

[Kozyrev] I have a very simple argument: Even diplomatic departments are sometimes, let us say, inaccurate and sometimes biased in their reporting. The point is that the Foreign Ministry became firmly established as the CPSU's diplomatic detachment over 70 years. There were armed detachements of the CPSU. It would be a mistake to think that in six months we had reformed ourselves, particularly the functioning apparatus. I do not think that we should act against our conscience here and try to say that the whole revolution is already finished. The revolution is just starting. Repentance is just beginning. The current CPSU trial is not a trial of people but a transformation issue. We must recover from this illness. That is why I say: No, I do not have pockmarks after having been ill and after the whole country had the plague. I do not think that this is a critical attitude. Therefore, we, all of us, all of the apparatus, really must reform.

Incidentally, I spoke about this in the interview. This reconfirms it. This is a complex problem. We must try to secure unbiased, objective information so that we can gather it by normal methods and process it by normal methods and inform the country's leadership correctly. I think they were wrong to take offense with me.

[Korzun] Aleksey Benediktov.

[Caller] Andrey Vladimirovich, you mentioned what the Foreign Ministry intends to do. What has your Foreign Ministry actually achieved since January? Or is it all still intentions?

[Kozyrev] We have devised a program for regular meetings at least once every two months, both at the heads of government level and at the heads of state level—that is, presidents. A procedure for these meetings has also been established. For instance, you may recall that it took more than a year for the Union congress and then for our Supreme Soviet to elaborate some sort of procedure and learn to hold civilized dialogue. That is no small achievement. Besides, a range of agreements and a range of accords on economic issues and military and political questions have been signed. Finally, I believe a radical turn became evident at the latest meeting in Tashkent, when an agreement on a military and political alliance was signed. You may have noticed that the Asian Republics have been active participants in that treaty—in other words, many of those who did not want to hear.... [changes thought] There may have been some kind of illusion or some kind of feeling—I do not want to name names, but let us say Turkey and Iran in the south, and so on—that they had a promised land there and that it was necessary to break away from Russia as soon as possible. These republics somewhat faced reality and decided that a military alliance with Russia is needed not because we have stationed troops on their territories, but because they realized that we do not intend to dictate and that we do not intend to become a new center. As they say, they started to come to us.

We must take a simpler approach so that people will come to us. Look what happened in Moscow. We thought: God help us to maintain this achievement. It was not on our initiative, although we put forward this initiative six months ago. A movement emerged in Moscow calling for forces to maintain peace in the CIS. This prompted the fear that police methods, a police state, a center that would dispatch troops would be restored. No one wanted to hear about peace-keeping forces six months ago, when we first proposed the idea and circulated our draft document. This is now a reality. Moscow, Ukraine, Byelarus, the Asian Republics, and the Transcaucasian states support this decision. We will now work toward implementing this decision. The syndrome of fear of the center and of the restoration of military and police structures was replaced within six months by the realization of the need for cooperation to maintain peace. I think that is the most convincing, most dramatic phenomenon. I must say that Western European integration has not even come close to this idea. There are no Western European peace-keeping forces. There are only UN forces. We have now managed to convince the CSCE to decide to set up its own forces. European integration may be 30 years old, but they have not yet realized the many things which we are now implementing as a matter of course on CIS territory.

Of course, I am very far from viewing things in a rosy light. We are very far from resolving all of the issues. However, the fact that the pendulum stopped at this extreme.... [changes thought] It had to swing to this point because it was set to suit a state which was essentially unitary and a dictatorial regime, namely the Soviet Union. It swung to the extreme and apparently stopped there. It then swung back significantly on several matters. I do not like to use these words, but I think that there has been a historic change in these six months, a historic change in mood from complete dispersal to cooperation on extremely sensitive issues.

[Korzun] Andrey Vladimirovich, I am sorry but the glass is either half empty or half full. This can be approached in different ways. You said that the EC has not yet gone as far as we have. That is true only in certain cases; a

point of departure is needed on many others. Where did they start? What were we moving toward? This is quite a serious question on my part, I think.

Do you consider the CIS a viable community? Has the pendulum really reached an extreme? Will your department, the consultative committees, and so on not continue their activities even if they are somewhat diminished in strength? Will it not swing even further until there is complete division into normal interstate relations not involving any kind of community structure?

[Kozyrev] I think that there are and there will be normal interstate relations, but integrational relations. Our economies and policies—not to mention the people living in the various republics, millions of people, not only Russians but also other nationalities—are intertwined. We are doomed to consolidation and integration. The fact that the path toward this can only be traveled by recognizing the state independence and sovereignty of these republics is another matter. We came up against paths of diktat in the Soviet Union.

This is the essence of our differences with the war party. The war party proposes primitivism instead of politics—that is, a shortened path, a return to dictatorship, a return to methods of force, and so on, and so on. That will lead nowhere.

Many republican leaders, particularly those in the Asian republics, are appealing to us now, asking what we can do together. A completely new question which has arisen over the last couple of months and to which we are seeking an answer is: What can we do to keep the Russians and the Russian-speaking populations in these republics? They realized the threat that all of these people would leave. This would verge on a national catastrophe for many of the republics because they are the best-trained personnel and are often the technical and artistic intelligentsia. With their departure.... [changes thought] Or are the very highly qualified work force. These republics simply will lose an awful lot.

It seems to me that Russia's real policies should involve building this very complicated network of relations and multilateral mechanisms—building the CIS as an international organization, if you like—while keeping bilateral relations very flexible and retaining certain kinds of coalitions within the CIS based on interests but not to the detriment of other members. For instance, if several republics have an interest in the military-technical sphere, wonderful! Unite, work out the methods—incidently, this is what we are doing—and develop the interest. An interest in the cultural sphere? Wonderful! If someone thinks that he can manage without anything at present, for the time being, well, okay, don't cause a problem. In a word, flexibility in all these mechanisms is needed.

[Korzun] Andrey Kozyrev is our guest on the air. Radio M, free radio for free people. A question from Sergey Bunkman.

[Caller] Andrey Vladimirovich, [word indistinct] I would like to ask a question that does not yet relate to your department. How much sovereignty will Russia tolerate?

[Kozyrev] We held a conference at our Foreign Ministry after signing the Federation Treaty and discussed with Federation members the possibility of international contacts, not political and military-political contacts but direct economic cooperation and cultural cooperation, say, with other regions in other countries, with those same German laender. I feel that this is acceptable. We are ready to assist in this area. We are helping to promote the competent, independent emergence of our Federation subjects and their respective partners within the framework of the Russian Federation. Incidentally, these partners are sometimes more attractive than the states themselves. Take the German laender, Bavaria, for example. The Radio Liberty representative will back me when I say that it is possible to get much more expertise, help, cooperation, and so-called real deals from Munich than from the Federal Government. This is what we welcome and will promote.

[Korzun] Konstantin Egert, from IZVESTIYA.

[Egert] There was a lot of talk in the press about the fact that there is an outflow of young, competent employees from the Foreign Ministry. Is this continuing? Is some kind of new core developing? Pehaps it has halted?

[Kozyrev] What about personnel? I think we have succeeded in radically renewing virtually 90 percent of the upper stratum. The collegium just adopted a decision that this reform, the further renewal, should now move downward because the bosses must be appointed first and then should pick their teams. We are quite careful in our approach to this process, although I would repeat that the Foreign Ministry has no less need for reform than probably any other state department.

The outflow of people? Yes, there are commercial structures. Commercial structures offer unbelievable salaries. Take an attache who, let us say, has returned from an embassy after two or three years, who knows the language, and who has contacts in that country. He is paid.... [changes thought] I won't name a figure, for it would arouse envy. They pay his salary in hard currency. Naturally, there is an outflow. However, I should say that this is a situation which is typical in Western states. Although it pays salaries in dollars, the U.S. State Department naturally cannot compete with commercial structures or corporations. Therefore, you might say that people join the State Department to work for the United States. We are moving toward this. I think that those who have patriotic convictions will remain. This is very good. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Receives Savissaar in Kremlin 30 Jul

OW3107180292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1727 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Russian president's press office, Boris Yeltsin received in the Kremlin Friday the former prime minister of Estonia, deputy of parliament Edgar Savisaar. As BF [BALTFAX] learned from sources close to the Russian and Estonian Governments, the meeting focused on problems complicating bilateral relations: as is known, the Russian parliament had to pass a resolution expressing concern over "discrimination of ethnic Russians in Estonia". Cases of armed attacks on Russian units stationed in Estonia became the subject of the discussion.

Envoy Says Ties at 'Freezing Point'

LD0108041592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Oleg Popovich, Russian ambassador to Estonia, believes that relations between the two countries have reached the freezing point. Popovich told RIA that the situation regarding Russian forces is tenser in Estonia than in either of the other Baltic states. Incidents are reported daily. Another source of concern is the status of rights for the Russophone community in the republic. All of these issues are preventing normal progress in our relations, Popovich said.

Yeltsin Foresees No More Coup Attempts

LD3107202392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Excerpt] President Yeltsin says nothing will impede the Russian reform and he feels that there will be no more attempts to carry out a coup d'etat. The president was speaking at the ceremony of signing a Russian-Turkmen treaty of friendship and cooperation. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Meets With Youth, 'Reform' Deputies

LD0108220392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1212 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Representatives of the "Reform" parliamentary group today met with the Russian president. Our correspondent Olga Vasilenko has paid a visit to the Kremlin, and here she is with the details:

[Vasilenko] This meeting went on for more than an hour. But as our television colleagues told us—they were allowed into the hall where the meeting took place literally just for two minutes to take a few shots of the meeting—Boris Nikolayevich opened the meeting by speaking about another meeting which he had had with representatives of youth organizations prior to the one with the deputies today. It must have been held very early in the morning since the meeting with the deputies began at 1100.

Boris Nikolayevich expressed regret that no law on youth policy has yet been adopted, and expressed his wish to recommend to the Supreme Soviet that it should pass a decision on problems relating to youth policy. That will be faster than passing a law, more so considering that the law is being worked out in rough outline in committees and commissions, and the work on it has almost been completed.

On 4 September, the president plans to meet with representatives of youth organizations again, but this meeting will be more representative than the one in the Kremlin and it will be held at the Hotel President.

As to the conversation with the deputies, those taking part in it were people we all know very well: Nikolay Nikolayevich Vorontsov, Ambartsumov, Kovalev, Zolotukhin, Zadonskiy, Sheynis, Yushenkov. We had to wait for more than two hours for the meeting to end. About an hour and a half after it had begun we were faced with the president's press secretary, Vyasheslav Kostikov, who said that he would tell us nothing: Do not film me, he said, I will tell you nothing. You can learn everything from the deputies themselves.

We were very surprised. But we waited for the deputies with very great impatience. And when at 1330 our deputies emerged from the meeting, the journalists had hardly allowed them to step out of the room before they began to quiz them about what had happened. And that is what Sergey Nilolayevich Yushenkov said to me about the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Yushenkov] During our conversation with the president, we covered about five areas: interaction with various public and political organizations, [word indistinct] provisions for reform measures, problems relating to the constitutional process, the problem of fighting crime, and problems of foreign policy.

[Vasilenko] The president's press secretary said to us that what was at issue was the unification of democratic forces for the implementation of economic reforms.

[Yushenkov] Yes, this was also discussed. And Boris Nikolayevich said that this was indeed an important problem. But as the president he has no time to deal specially with forming [word indistinct] or an association, and it was up to the democratic forces themselves, which he generally supports to resolve this problem.

[Vasilenko] Yevgeniy Astakhovich, what aspects of foreign policy were discussed?

[Ambartsumov] As to foreign policy, in connection with the recent hearings on the Kuril Islands, the president's visit to Japan was discussed. We have a legal basis, the basis of international law—I have in mind the 1956 Declaration—and I think we must abide by it. But what is involved here is how and how fast it must be enforced. None of us are disputing the Declaration. And neither is the president.

What is at issue here is that no territorial changes on which Japan is independently insisting can be carried out in current conditions, in conditions of a very tense internal situation. Generally, they put great pressure on public opinion. I think this does not create a favorable atmosphere for the president's visit. It does not mean that the president wants to avoid the visit. But there must be no rigid, ill-considered, or hasty decisions. The process of settling relations with Japan must of course be further developed. But the Japanese themselves—and the president said it in his statement—the state of Japan has invested nothing in the Russian economy in recent times. So what is important is for the Japanese to acquire the feeling that they will be receiving the president of a great power, that they should take an appropriate tone with him, that he cannot be put under great pressure, and that it is necessary to develop step by step this process of settling and improving relations with Japan naturally.

[Vasilenko] Sergey Adamovich Kovalev, you are taking part in the sitting of the Constitutional Court. Did you discuss at the meeting with the president what has been going on there? After all, this is a very important event for the president.

[Ambartsumov] I will tell you instead of Sergey Adamovich. Boris Nikolayevich congratulated Sergey Adamovich on his brilliant speech.

[Vasilenko] That is very nice.

[Kovalev] I think the president understands very well the whole importance of the hearings under way. I do not want to make any forecasts about the decisions of the

Constitutional Court. I want to stress that the president understands very well that the problems facing the Constitutional Court are not only important but also very difficult. What is involved here is that Russia will have to bring to a close a certain historic epoch. [end recording]

[Vasilenko] I must say to our listeners, that in addition to Sergey Nikolayevich Yushenkov, Sergey Adamovich Kovalev, chairman of the Committee for Human Rights, and Yevgeniy Astakhovich Ambartsumov, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for International Relations, took part in the reportage you have just heard.

Youth Policy Discussed

LD0108121492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1056 GMT 1 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova; "Urgent—Yeltsin Receives Youth Representatives"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 1 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin received representatives of Russian youth organisations in the Kremlin today.

The meeting was attended by members of the Russian Youth Union, the National Council of Russian Youth Associations and representatives of the government. They discussed problems dealing with the working out of a concept of Russia's youth policy and preparations for the expanded meeting of President Yeltsin with representatives of Russian youth, due to take place at the President Hotel of Moscow on September 4.

Summing up the results of the meeting, Yeltsin said that he planned to submit to parliament draft fundamentals of Russia's youth policy.

Reforms Need 'Political Support'

LD0108125692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1202 GMT 1 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Aug—Problems of interrelations between democratic parties and movements and the president, political support for reforms, questions connected with the activities of law enforcement bodies and power structures, and questions of Russia's foreign policy were discussed at a meeting in the Kremlin today between President Boris Yeltsin and representatives of the "Reform" parliamentary group.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told by Russian People's Deputy Sergey Yushenkov that the group's representatives raised with the president the following issue: There is no sufficient political support in society for the policy of reforms, nor are there structures that can unequivocally and precisely tie their activities with the government's policy, proper information and ideological support does not exist either. Boris Yeltsin told the deputies that coordination in this area has been entrusted to Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis.

The group's members expressed the view that associations like the one that has been set up at a recent forum of supporters of reforms could become the foundation for democratic forces to become more cohesive. This was reported by people's deputy Viktor Sheynis. The president agreed with it, but stressed that he saw himself as a representative of the whole nation, and that he would not like to link himself to any specific political movement.

In Viktor Sheynis' words, the deputies expressed concern that they have almost no influence upon the ministries that "wield power"—the Defense, Security, and Internal Affairs Ministries. "In principle, complete mutual understanding was reached that representatives of democratic forces must, through specific individuals, exert influence on the activities of these ministries," the deputy emphasized. It is his view that in the near future "not so much reshuffles as additional appointments" will take place within these ministries.

A significant part of the conversation was devoted to foreign policy issues. Deputies expressed alarm over attacks by the right- wing conservative press on Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. According to Viktor Sheynis, the president said he firmly supported him as head of the ministry. The complicated situation that has emerged around the Kuril issue and Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming trip to Japan was also discussed. "The president has not arrived at a final decision on this issue. Evidently the trip is more likely to go ahead than not, because it is too late to postpone it, but it is currently difficult to say what its final outcome may be," Viktor Sheynis said. In his words, the president agrees that "the pressure exerted by Japanese politicians, demanding everything and immediately, runs counter not just to Russian, but also to Japanese interests."

Sheynis Predicts New Appointments

OW0108131092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1220 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Staff rearrangements and new appointments will apparently take place in the near future in the so called "power" ministries (of defense, security, internal affairs), the deputy of the Russian Supreme Soviet's parliament, a member of the parliamentary group "Reform", Viktor Sheynis said in his interview with journalists following his conversation with President Boris Yeltsin. Members of the group "Reform" had a meeting with the head of the Russian state on Saturday [1 August] in the Kremlin which lasted over an hour.

Sheynis said that discussing the main topic on the relations of the President and the democratic organizations of Russia, the parties expressed concern over the

fact that the democratic organizations have no direct contacts with the ministries on which primarily the calamity of the society depends. According to the representatives of "Reform", democratic forces must take under their control these departments. "The President paid great attention to this point of view and we are quite satisfied with his reaction. Several concrete surnames were mentioned during the conversation", Sheynis noted but he refused to name at least one of them.

He has reported that speaking on the necessity to consolidate the democratic forces, the President underlined that he considers himself a representative of the nation as a whole and would not connect himself with any definite political movement. Democrats are also not interested in "monopoly on the President", Sheynis pointed out.

Government News Conference Held on Meeting

LD3107160992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1211 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The Collegium of the Russian Government held its first meeting with the press today. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Vera Shchelkunova] The members of the government did not make any statements but simply decided to answer questions. The questions can be grouped into the following blocks: First, why is Poltoranin going to Japan on 2 August? Does this imply the possible resignation of Foreign Minister Kozyrev? What about the problems of Sakhalin and the Kurils in general? The reply was as follows: It is most likely that the territorial problems will not be discussed during my trip, Poltoranin said. The president will have a whole package of documents on Russian-Japanese relations and we would prefer not to expand on this question to the press.

He categorically denied rumors about the possible resignation of Kozyrev. Kozyrev himself, who arrived later than the others, said the preparations for Yeltsin's visit to Japan—one of the major foreign political actions of the year—are proceeding normally. A very large number of people are involved, including deputies, government members, and the press. It is hoped that serious analytical material will be provided rather than just emotions.

Poltoranin's visit is planned to show—as he said—that we are not restricting ourselves only to territorial problems in relations with Japan, and this visit by the deputy prime minister is aimed at developing cooperation.

There were many questions on the government's program for deepening reforms and its specific aspects. Minister Chernomyrdin, commenting on the price of fuels, said prices for these products would be stable for some time. Liberalization could be expected only at the end of 1993. That is somewhat reassuring, but all the same....[changes thought] A very acute problem, as you know, is the increase in the reciprocal indebtedness of enterprises. The figure of 3 trillion rubles has been mentioned, and it is growing catastrophically before our eyes. Georgiy Khizha said this problem cannot be solved today by a single simple action. He said there had been a long discussion of this problem and that no way out had been found. In Khizha's opinion, the increase in nonpayments indicates a hidden inflation. Very decisive measures are required, first to increase the enterprises' working resources and prevent price increases. But how can we prevent price increases? Deputy Prime Minister Khizha did not say.

On the subject of cash availability, the members of the Collegium of the Russian Government assured the press—and it is necessary to tell our listeners this—that everything will be resolved literally in the next few weeks.

Naturally there were many questions about the government's latest mysterious session, about which nothing but rumors have been creeping in. The rumors allege, for example, that all the projects submitted there had been rejected. Vladimir Shumeyko spoke about this.

[Begin First Deputy Prime Minister Shumeyko recording] As the saying goes, news flies while rumors crawl. But rumors crawl faster than the news flies. The rumors are wrong. The government examined three issues. The first issue was the progress of work on a nationalities policy. We looked at how our Goskomnats [State Committee for Nationalities] was working in this area. The discussion was quite long, almost two and a half hours, and certain conclusions were reached on the way the work on this concept should be organized in the future. It was purely routine work without any decisions being adopted.

We examined two other issues. What has been talked about for a very long time has come true, as the saying goes. We examined a draft decision on transferring sobering-up stations, reception centers for children, and other institutions from the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the bodies that should deal with them—the sobering-up stations to medical establishments, the reception centers for children to the Ministry of Social Security, and so on. It was a very serious issue; we examined it and a draft decision was adopted that will be published after it has been perfected.

The second very large project concerns providing living conditions [obustroystvo] for the Ministry of Internal Affairs troops: apartments, wages, and so on, a whole package of issues. The decision is huge; it includes 18 clauses. So we examined it and the draft was adopted. So you see, the government worked productively yesterday. [end recording]

Ministers Cite Government Goals

LD3107133992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1101 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jul—The achievement of a smooth relationship between the Russian parliament and the mass media depends to a large extent on the position adopted by the Supreme Soviet. This was stated today by Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin in reply to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent at a meeting in the Russian press building between members of the Collegium of the Russian Federation Government and journalists from Russia and abroad.

The "fourth estate" has already moved toward rapprochement with parliament, he continued, "but there are people in the Supreme Soviet who would like to take the mass media under control," the deputy prime minister stressed. He added that it was hardly a situation in which the Ministry of Press and Information, which he heads, "should do something" to reconcile the sides.

Opening today's meeting, Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister in the Russian cabinet, noted that "the main task of the present Russian Government is to prevent the reform process from coming to a halt and to make it irreversible."

Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, asked whether the government was not too much under the thumb of the IMF, stated: "In our work we proceed on the basis not of the IMF demands but primarily on the basis of the tasks of internal economic policy.... We do not need either hyperinflation or a vast deficit in the state budget." He said the government planned to hold the monthly inflation level down to 9 percent by the end of the year. As Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays told journalists, prices in Russia were increasing by 15-17 percent per month.

The Russian Government "hopes that within the next few weeks the worst of the cash problem will be over," Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev said.

Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha stressed that "the economic situation in Russia will deteriorate sharply if the problem of nonpayments by enterprises is not solved."

Poltoranin Japan Visit Defended

PM3107172592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 1 Aug 92 p 1

[Sergey Ovsiyenko report under the "Press Conference" rubric: "Vladimir Shumeyko: 'Stabilization Will Come at the End of the Year.' Mikhail Poltoranin: 'I Am Going to Japan To Help the Foreign Ministry'"]

[Text] After a long break the Russian Government press center has once again started work presenting journalists with a kind of surprise: Seven of the eight deputy prime ministers took part in a press conference. The presence of the government's top men—ministers and collegium members (only V. Makharadze and V. Barannikov were absent)—totally satisfied journalists' hunger for information.

V. Shumeyko, who assumed the role of main respondent, stressed that the government's main task is to prevent the reform process from halting. The reforms do not spell revolution, but evolution; they are designed to restructure all areas of society, including public consciousness. The difficult reform process notwithstanding, the deputy prime minister said, we are striving to increase the mass of commodities and stabilize the increase in prices. Toward the end of the year the situation in society will have normalized, he concluded.

In Andrey Kozyrev's absence (he was about 15 minutes late) Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin took questions about the Russian Foreign Ministry. Your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent asked him the following: Doesn't your visit to Japan at the beginning of August mean that the Foreign Ministry's role is being belittled?

"Nothing of the sort. Kozyrev initiated this trip so that I could help him." Developing the Foreign Ministry theme, he added:

"The topic of the Kurils has not been ducked, it must be given a great deal of thought. The president has his own set of proposals on Russian-Japanese relations, but they should not be made public now."

Touching on the rumors about Kozyrev's possible resignation, the deputy prime minister pointed out: He has done a great deal to normalize relations with other states; the question of his resignation has not been raised.

Kozyrev himself, evidently tired of the endless talk on this topic, preferred to answer my colleagues' questions with a joke. Why, for instance, are Foreign Ministry documents most frequently published in DEN?

"This publication has kept its own correspondents within the ministerial apparatus since the old days. But, seriously, our competent organs must investigate document leaks and publicly announce the results of this investigation."

Kozyrev thinks that the articles in DEN and the attacks on Russia's foreign policy course are evidence that the opposition to the president and the government is stepping up its activity and evidence of its aggression.

Touching on the course of privatization, Anatoliy Chubays pointed out that financial stability in Russia has not been accomplished, but the level of stability is sufficient to implement privatization. The amount in checks that the state intends to issue during the sale of enterprise stock will be announced in a presidential decree.

The government collegium press conference was fast-paced, but it lasted an hour or more. Both sides were pleased.

Economic Issues Addressed

OW3107175392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin from the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting of the members of the Russian government's board with the participation of the Deputy Prime Ministers Vladimir Shumeyko, Aleksandr Shokhin, Anatoliy Chubays, Georgiy Khizha, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Boris Saltykov, Mikhail Poltoranin, and the Ministers Andrey Kozyrev, Andrey Nechayev, Viktor Yerin, Vasiliy Barchuk with journalists took place on Friday [31 July] in Moscow.

Shumeyko, Chubays, Khizha and the Economy Minister Nechayev are convinced that the current level of the financial stabilization in the republic is sufficient in order to pass to the second stage of the economic reform. They expressed their hope that stabilization of economy, and of a ruble in the first turn, can be gained by autumn. At first a floating course of a ruble in respect to a dollar depending on exchange rates at exchanges is expected to be established. And then it will be possible to go to "a more firm" exchange rate of a ruble in respect to a dollar.

Shumeyko and Nechayev underlined that they see no danger in introduction of domestic payment unit in different regions of the republic. Responding to an "IF" [INTERFAX] question on possibility of destruction of the plans on stabilization of economy by "this home-bred money," the deputy prime ministers and the ministers unanimously expressed conviction that "this is a temporary phenomenon." Several regions were forced to introduce their own "money" due to the deficit of cash. The government has undertaken a number of measures to solve this problem.

According to Shumeyko, "not only economic, but also political separatism" disturbs the single economic organism. The first deputy prime minister said that a sad joke is being spread among the public - "there is a distant, close, and internal foreign land." Nevertheless the government hopes that the federative treaty will settle several inter-political problems.

Shokhin reported that the council of directors of the International Monetary Fund will discuss an issue on granting 1 billion dollars to Russia to strengthen its currency reserves on August 7. He said that the government "must not spend these funds." "It is necessary to seriously think it over whether to take this billion in August or later on when the need is more sharp and the percent on debts at least are not so high."

Chubays Predicts Higher Inflation

LD3107163892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Ryabov]

[Text] Moscow July 31 TASS—Enormous mutual indebtedness of Russian enterprises and imbalance between the supplies of currency and goods may trigger hyperinflation in Russia. Prices will grow monthly by five-six-fold instead of 15-17 per cent as is the case at present, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays warned at a press conference of members of government on Friday [31 July].

"The monstrous indebtedness of state enterprises" would not exist had the necessary legislative acts been adopted when prices were released from state control, added another deputy prime minister, Georgiy Khizha. Among the acts he listed decrees on transformation of state enterprises into joint-stock companies, on bankruptcy, etc. The economic situation in Russia will worsen if no solution for the existing situation is found in the near future, he warned.

"The rouble stabilistion and convertibility programme is implemented as planned", Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko said. The rouble is undergoing the first stage of convertibility when it is exchanged at a floating rate determined by the market. At the second stage the rouble will be exchanged according to a strictly fixed rate. The policy is supported by the International Monetary Fund and the Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as by the Central Bank of Russia, he added.

The Government plans to introduce new export duties on energy resources, Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin disclosed. However, the duties on oil will remain practically unchanged, he added. The Government will continue to control prices on energy resources this year, but they are expected to be released from state control by the end of 1993, Chernomyrdin said.

1993 Defense Orders Not Reduced

LD3107135392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Pavel Karikov]

[Text] Moscow July 31 TASS—State defence orders in 1993 will remain at this year's level, according to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha. The orders were reduced by 68 per cent in 1992, he recalled at a press conference of government members on Friday [31 July].

The government concentrates on solving two main problems in this sphere: To decrease the number of enterprises producing armaments, and to efficiently use the capital goods of enterprises undergoing conversion for consumer goods production. "These are complicated and long processes", Khizha said, adding that the government has to act energetically in order to solve all the existing problems in the industry.

Conference Demonstrates 'Pluralism'

PM0308154492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Mikhail Berger report: "Russian Government Demonstrates Unity of Its Ranks and Pluralism of Its Views"]

[Text] An unprecedented press conference in terms of the number of government members who took part in it was held on Friday [31 July] in the Russian press house.

Seven deputy prime ministers, including first deputy prime minister V. Shumeyko, and most key ministers answered questions put by Russian and foreign journalists. The extensive representation by government leaders precluded any one topic being emphasized—the conversation was universal, leaning toward economic and international problems.

Anatoliy Chubays' statement to the effect that privatization is moving to the center of the government's economic policy can be considered the most important of what was said; however, this does not mean that the government has given financial stabilization up as a bad job. A. Shokhin once again confirmed the government's firm desire to try to secure something in which few people outside the Cabinet believe today. The aim is to keep inflation and the budget deficit in single figures—inflation at no more than 9 percent and the budget deficit at no more than 5 percent. These figures are among the IMF's terms, but, Shokhin stressed, it is not a matter of anyone imposing their demands, but of what our economy itself needs.

Probably in the government itself not everyone believes in the possibility of such brilliant results for financial stabilization. At least V. Shumeyko said, when asked about possible disagreements with the IMF, that there are sensible people on both sides and if things do not turn out right in our country, we will reach another agreement.

There are no grounds for thinking that things may not turn out right, G. Khizha said, speaking so heatedly about the need to increase enterprises' turnover funds (in other words, about giving them money for their current activity) that A. Chubays was forced to comment on what he said. Chubays spoke of the danger of hyperinflation and said that highly rigorous measures should be employed against debtors.

V. Chernomyrdin said that prices of energy sources this year will continue to be regulated.

It also emerged that A. Kozyrev is not about to resign, but that M. Poltoranin's trip to Japan was organized by the foreign minister himself.

Presumably, however important were the statements by the press conference participants, the main thing was not the content but the nature of the function. The government probably thinks that it is not doing enough work with public opinion to clarify its position at a time when the parliament is doing this virtually every day during its sessions. The press conference was designed to demonstrate the commonality of the views held by the "old" and "new" members of the Cabinet; however, it was hard not to notice a certain degree of pluralism in the government leaders' responses. Yegor Gaydar's absence with no explanation given prompted two hypotheses: They either wanted him to avoid facing pointed questions or to distance themselves from him somehow.

Yeltsin Decree To Provide Oil to Rural Areas

OW0108151492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a directive entitled On Urgent Measures to Provide Petroleum Products for the Satisfaction of Vital National Requirements, the main purpose of which is to provide oil products for rural areas, above all fuel for agricultural machinery.

According to a report of the President's press service, a considerable proportion of the oil products which oil producers and refiners today keep at their disposal will, as a provisional measure, be used in harvesting and in principal power stations, or will be stored up for the winter, or sent to the Far North.

According to the press service report, the managers of oil-producing and oil-refining enterprises have given their consent to the measure.

Fuel Producers Agree to Measure

LD0108142592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1233 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, 1 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed documents today that will help to eliminate strains in supplying rural areas with petroleum products, especially fuel for farm equipment, in the very near future.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, said the specific point is that a significant proportion of the 40 percent of petroleum products currently remaining at the disposal of petroleum producers will, as a temporary measure, be channeled into priority state needs in order to carry out harvesting work, to create fuel stocks for the winter period, and to supply resources to areas in the Far North and important power installations in Russia.

The measure has been agreed upon with the managers of petroleum extraction and refining enterprises.

The Russian president's directive "On Urgent Measures To Supply Petroleum Products For Priority State Needs" makes provisions for a mechanism to implement the decision.

The directive signed by Boris Yeltsin forms part of the measures being taken by the president and the government to stabilize the socioeconomic situation within the country and, specifically, to provide country dwellers with normal working and living conditions.

Chernomyrdin Discusses Decree

LD0208110292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1922 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Interview with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, deputy prime minister of the Russian Government for the fuel and power-engineering complex, by correspondent Svetlana Sokolova; place and date not given—live or recorded; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Sokolova] What are the main aspects of a directive of Russian Federation President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin?

[Chernomyrdin] The directive on urgent measures to ensure supplies of petroleum products for the immediate requirements of the state, which was signed today, deals first and foremost in the present circumstances with the question of harvesting. The harvesting campaign is taking place in almost all rural areas of the country. I think the harvest in certain regions is good, even very good—for example, in Altay and in Orenburg oblast. Of course, at present the problem of providing fuel for primarily the residents of our rural regions has emerged. This is one part of the issue which demands urgent solution today.

The second part is that fuel can be delivered to some of our regions only during the time of navigation—such as the north, the remote regions, the Arctic regions, the Far East, Magadan, Chukotka, and Yakutiya. Therefore, it is a separate issue. Unfortunately, navigation this year started almost two weeks later. This is yet another difficulty, added to all the other difficulties we already have. In connection with this, a decision was made and the president signed such a directive so that at present the main efforts can be focused on these two problems.

I would like to stress again that it is necessary to provide for harvesting, first and foremost. [passage omitted]

The third aspect is, of course, transportation. We are using mainly the railroads for transportation. Fuel must be delivered, and delivered promptly to particular addresses, where it is needed. [passage omitted]

[Sokolova] What changes should be expected as a result of the directive?

[Chernomyrdin] One main thing should change. It is necessary to provide the countryside with fuel, first and foremost. I repeat, the countryside. The harvest campaign is under way.

[Sokolova] For how long will the presidential directive be in force?

[Chernomyrdin] This directive was issued for the period of harvesting. The aim is to do everything possible and to direct all efforts to reach these aims. These are the two main tasks. This issue may be not quite...[Chernomyrdin changes thought] Of course, some enterprises will find it difficult. But they must understand that there is no other way out.

[Sokolova] What difficulties will enterprises face?

[Chernomyrdin] The difficulty is that they have contracts which usually contain certain timetables. It is possible that some contracts will have to be put aside during this period of time. This is the main difficulty. [passage omitted]

[Sokolova] Will there be some kind of reduced prices for oil supplied to the countryside?

[Chernomyrdin] No. There is no discussion of prices. The current price operates. We are not talking about prices. [passage omitted]

Fuel Enterprises Exempted From Export Duties

OW3107212392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Government has exempted enterprises with foreign investment of no less than 30%, borrowed for extracting and processing oil and gas, and registered before January 1st, 1992, from customs export duty payment for the export of over and above plan production. The authority for the above was signed by the acting prime minister, Yegor Gaydar.

Government To Issue Credits to Far North

LD0108104992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The Russian Government has decreed that preferential credits be provided for deliveries of food, consumer goods, oil, and oil products to areas of the Far North and regions that have the same status.

Instructions have been issued to enterprises and organizations that carry out the early delivery of goods to these areas to pay commercial banks a 10-percent annual rate of interest on the credit.

State Enterprises Receive 150 Billion Rubles

OW0108153892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Finance Ministry began crediting the state enterprises to discharge mutual debts. The chairman of the parliamentary commission on budget, plans, taxes, and prices Aleksandr Pochinok told "IF" [INTERFAX] on Saturday [1 August] that 150 billion

rubles had already been distributed among "especially large" enterprises. According to Pochinok, these funds, being entered in special accounts, "will be introduced into circulating assets" of the enterprises and "will not appear in the real economy".

All other enterprises will discharge with each other by means of special payment commissions until October 5.

Beginning October 5 a verification of the financial status of enterprises is to be conducted. Enterprises with positive balance will be allowed to transfer credit funds to common accounts. The fate of unprofitable enterprises is to be decided by the government.

Pochinok underlined that the action on settling the problem of mutual calculations does not mean a deviation from the principles of market economy. "We strictly fulfil the demands of the International Monetary Fund and we are conducting tough control over cash realization of the budget", he pointed out.

According to Pochinok, this action of the Central Bank of Russia [CBR] on granting credits announced in an official telegram of the acting chairman of the CBR Viktor Gerashchenko was agreed with the Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha and the Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk.

Deputy Criticizes Bank Action

OW3107213892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Valeriy Skripchenko, Russian Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman of the Budget, Planning, Taxation and Costs Commission, who is currently establishing banking systems, made a negative response to the Central Bank's actions on Thursday [30 July].

An official telegram, signed by the acting Central Bank Chairman, Vitaly Gerashchenko, had been sent to regional Central Bank branches on Thursday authorising credits to state enterprises to cover mutual debts.

In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, Skripchenko pointed out that "Credit funds are, of course, necessary, but must be authorised by the government and not by the Central Bank.

Skripchenko thinks that the owner of enterprises which are still state owned, i.e the state in the form of its executive organs, must control their cash flow, and not the Central Bank.

Skripchenko stressed that to undertake such financial injections outside government one must be wary of wrecking the very principles of market economy.

Conference on Banking System Held

LD0208135292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0955 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, leaders of financial bodies, and members of the government of the republic met today in the House of Soviets.

The problems of the banking system, its present state, and its prospects for development were discussed. It was noted in particular that the Central Bank of Russia is playing a special role under the current conditions. The participants in the meeting also discussed relations with the national banks of the republics of the former Union. The ruble zone should be clearly outlined and entry into it should be accompanied by strict commitments by the partners and by participation in the joint elaboration and implementation of financial, credit, and monetary policy.

Discussions, Participants Noted

LD0208163392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—The Central Bank of Russia should build its policy not on subjugation to the government or accounting to the parliament but on a basis of business contacts in accordance with agreements on interaction under which petty tutelage is impossible, Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov said on Sunday at a conference of heads of financial bodies and members of the Russian Government. Taking part in the conference were Acting Chairman of the Central Bank of Russia Viktor Gerashchenko, Deputy Speaker of the Russian Parliament Yuriy Voronin, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha and others.

The participants in the conference noted that the rouble zone should be clearly defined and that participation in the zone should entail rigid obligations of partners, and participation in working out and conducting the financial and crediting policy. The idea of creating an international bank may be developed.

It was noted during the conference that the Central Bank of Russia should become the pivot of economic unity. The main features of the policy of the Central Bank should be interaction with the government and the parliament, with commercial and national banks of countries of the CIS, as well as with the International Monetary Fund and other international financial organisations.

Central Bank Official on Enterprise Debts

LD3107140792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow July 31 TASS—The Central Bank of Russia printed enough money to pay its debt to enterprises and organisations in July, bank official Aleksandr Zinchenko said.

Zinchenko addressed a three-party commission comprising representatives of the government, trade unions and entrepreneurs on Friday [31 July]. The commission discussed financial problems in the republic, including the payment of debts to employees of state-owned enterprises and organisations. The commission said that the introduction of a unified system of payments, proposed by Russian Minister of Labour Gennadiy Melikyan, will require "astronomical expenditures" and should be introduced gradually.

At the first stage, the minimum salary is expected to be raised from 900 to 1,350 roubles, while the salary of medics, teachers and cultural workers will increase 75 per cent. A presidential decree addressing this problem will be drafted by August 7.

Central Bank Promises Increased Cash Flow

OW3107135392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1305 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the first quarter of this year Russia's GOSZNAK [state mint] printing press issued rb [rubles] 127.4 bn [billion], in the second—rb 272 bn, and next month it will turn out rb 500 bn, as journalists were told yesterday by the Central Bank's monetary turnover department Aleksandr Zinchenko. The cash flow in August is expected to be rb 510 bn, he said.

A. Zinchenko promised that no wages should be withheld next month through the fault of the Central Bank which will send out at least rb 500 bn to local branches. Delays may be only due to the enterprises' management.

The Bank's spokesman expressed concern over falling turnover of goods and returns to the banks. In the first 7 months of the year, he said, retail sales of consumer goods have fallen 54% on last year, and of food—by 22%.

A. Zinchenko has denied allegations that the shortage of cash in July was the Central Bank's fault. He explained that the Bank sent out rb 270 bn, whereas the shortage of cash for settlements throughout the country was rb 221.5 bn.

Gaydar Meets With Novgorod Officials

LD0108152192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] There is no peace even during a short vacation for Yegor Gaydar, acting head of the Russian Government, who is on holiday at Lake Valday. He held a meeting during which many economic and sociopolitical problems of Novgorod Oblast were discussed with its leadership. According to today's issued of NOVGORODSKIYE VEDOMOSTI, Yegor Gaydar promised that he will visit Novgorod in the first half of September.

Journalists To Pay for Archives Access

MK3107123292 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Jul 92 p 2

[Yuliya Goryacheva report under the "Facts, Events, People" rubric: "Intelligence Enters Market Economy"]

[Text] It has been learned that the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] is planning to start charging for its services in selecting archive documents of interest to journalists and researchers. Yuriy Kobaladze, leader of the FIS press service, argued it this way: "We are working in intelligence and not in an archive directorate. Our registration and verification department is designed to make a station's operational information accurate, and not to work for journalists."

Yuriy Kobaladze informed a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that the service he is in charge of daily receives dozens of requests from journalists and researchers, and therefore the five people working in the office on Kolpachnyy Pereulok are forced to run around in circles "chasing their own tails." He noted that, unless a payment system is devised, "journalists will have to wait in line a long time."

The leader of the FIS press service thought it necessary to stress that all documents selected pass through a special screening commission. It comprises the leaders of all intelligence subdepartments. After that, the decision to give out a particular document is coordinated with the FIS director.

Spokesman Denies Press Report

LD3107160692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The Russian foreign intelligence services will continue to provide information of interest to journalists and scientists free of charge. A Radio Liberty correspondent was told this by Kobaladze, the head of Russia's foreign intelligence press service. He made this statement in response to a report that appeared in today's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. The report said that employees of the intelligence services would be demanding payment for providing information. Kobaladze said that staff of the intelligence services has never asked and would not start asking payment for interviews or for providing information. At the same time, he stressed that journalists and research workers would not be given access to documents providing operational information. Kobaladze did not rule out the possibility of payment

International Affairs

Border Troops Deny Fleet Admiral's Statement

LD3107195392 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1338 GMT 29 Jul 92

[By Nikolay Zayka, UKRINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 29 Jul—At the news conference in the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, the commander of the fleet, expressed the thought that the Border Troops of Ukraine were informed in advance of "the forthcoming provocation-operation" with SKR-112 which left Donuzlav without sanctions and made the crossing to Odessa. Moreover the accusation of "the hijackers using communications documents prepared in advance when talking to border guard ships" could be heard from the admiral.

In connection with this the press service of the Border Troops made a statement. In particular, it is noted in it that such an utterance is nothing but a downright lie which has nothing to do with reality. The statement further reads that the command of the Border Troops of Ukraine was informed of the SKR-112 leaving Donuzlav port without permission by the operations service of the Black Sea Fleet at 0935. After that Colonel-General Valeriy Gubenko, the chairman of the State Committee for Defense of the State Border, contacted the command of the Black Sea Fleet to clarify the situation which took shape. Due to the fact that it was already known by then that weapons had been used by the ships of the Black Sea Fleet against SKR-112, Colonel-General Valeriy Gubenko proposed to refrain from using extraordinary measures. Proceeding from the situation and, in accordance with the law of Ukraine on the state border, three border patrol launches were brought to combat readiness by battle alarm. However, contrary to common sense, at 1010 border naval formations were disconnected from the unified loudspeaker communications system of the shore observation posts of the fleet and then also from the telephone communications through the switchboard of the fleet headquarters. In this situation the decision was taken to send patrol launches from Odessa and Balaklava in search of SKR-112. At 1340 it was found 54 miles north-west from Cape Tarkhunkut. The vessel was chased by three ships of the Black Sea Fleet. The attempts to contact SKR-112 on VHF and using visual means were unsuccessful. Only after approaching it to a distance of voice communication was it possible to clarify that the ship was heading for Odessa. With the purpose of preventing any incidents with the ships of the Black Sea Fleet in the open roadstead of Odessa port SKR-112 was allowed to moor to the outer wall of Potapov pier of the port next to the launches of Odessa brigade of the Frontier Troops of Ukraine, which were located there, and to take it under guard.

Therefore, the press service says, one gets the impression that the command of the fleet is trying to shift the responsibility for the warship leaving illegally from themselves onto others or creating conditions for similar actions for the personnel of the fleet.

National Patriotic Forces Comment on Fleet

LD3107155292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] A meeting of National Patriotic Forces was held in Lvov. Its participants came out for the consolidation of efforts in the matter of establishment of independent Ukraine, carrying out radical reforms in the sphere of economy and social life. Deputies of the local soviets, representatives of political parties and public organizations, expressed unanimous support for the crew of the military patrol boat number 815 and its Commander Mastenko for resoluteness in the creation of the Ukrainian Naval Fleet. Participants in the meeting believe that the Marines acted in accordance with the oath of allegiance which they took to the people of Ukraine.

Peacekeeping Troops Wounded in Yugoslavia

LD0208183692 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] A special Ukrainian Armed Forces batallion in Yugoslavia, as part of the UN peacekeeping force, suffered losses during intense mortar fire. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service reports that a radar surveillance platoon was attacked on 31 July. Serbian bombs hit the trench harboring Senior Sergeant (Topykha), Junior Sgt. (Vorozhan), and Privates (Karpenko), (Zhylin), and (Chernushenko), injuring the soldiers. Two of them, including an officer, were seriously injured and were transferred to Germany for treatment. Ukraine's special batallion in Yugoslavia fulfills tasks on convoying MT-T [transporter, tractor] columns with humanitarian aid, on disarming the conflicting sides, and on defending an airfield in Sarajevo. Like other UN forces, its mission is purely to make peace. However, even its fulfilment does not exclude combat losses in conditions of the lasting armed conflict and active military actions.

Guards Continue Arrests in Border Protection

LD0108022292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The border guards are successfully carrying out the president's decree on border protection: the facts substantiate this. Colonel General Valeriy Hubenko, commander of the Border Troops of Ukraine, said the special regime zone is under reliable control. Hubenko told this to the service council of commanders of units and formations from the Southern sector.

Today the press service of the Border Troops reported details of work that has been carried out for Novyny TV and Radio Agency. On the section of the border with the Republic of Moldova, almost 2,000 border trespassers have been arrested since March. Most of these people are Romanian citizens. Attempts by ten armed groups to

cross the border in Pridnestrovye were liquidated. Weapons taken during the attempt to cross the border include: 10,000 sub machine guns, grenade launchers, 150 hand grenades, and several silent weapons. In addition, several illegal shipments of foodstuffs, manufactured goods, and raw materials—including strategic ones—were confiscated.

Estonian Ship With Toxic Waste Requests Entry

LD0108213592 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 2201 GMT 1 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Text] Kiev, 31 July—After six months' absence, the Estonian ship "Heltermaa", which journalists of many countries have nicknamed The Flying Estonian, has again appeared off the coast of Ukraine.

Late last night, according to the press service of the Ukrainian Border Troops, the ship with radioactive waste in her holds cast anchor in the outer roads of Odessa port. The captain of "Heltermaa", which has brought zinc concentrates to Ukraine from Germany, requested that border guards open the border to allow the crew to be changed. The republic's customs service, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry for Environmental Protection, and local authorities have to adopt a joint decision on this issue.

Request Refused

LD0108213292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 1 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shwartzman]

[Text] Odessa August 1 TASS—The Black Sea environment inspection on Saturday refused to allow the Estonian vessel "Heltermaa" dock in the port of Odessa. The decision was made because the vessel is carrying toxic waste on its board, Odessa port officials told TASS.

National Affairs

Fokin Comments on Market Economy, Labor Issues

OW3107184292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Transition to market economy has to release some redundant labour", Prime Minister Vitold Fokin has told the leaders of the republic's independent trade unions. But he promised the government will not let it turn into mass unemployment by speeding up the modernisation of major industries.

The premier rejected a resumption of subsidies for the coal and metal industries since "with the large budget deficit it was impossible".

He ruled out wage rises in the government sector of the economy in the near future. "Our remuneration system has been completely disrupted", he said, "the only way out is to pass a labour law setting the relative prestige of this or that occupation". Work on such a bill will be finished by mid-August.

Fokin repeated the official forecast that "if our agriculture meets the state purchases target, Ukraine will cover its own need for grain and even have some to export".

The trade unions offered the government cooperation in working out social policies. The premier accepted that and advised to "hold a new registration of the trade unions' membership to know which unions represented the masses, and which - no one but their leaders". An agreement between the government and independent trade unions is expected to be signed in August.

New Payments Method Under Consideration

LD3107200692 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] The Government and the National Bank of Ukraine have considered the state of payment settlements, the functioning of the payment system, and [words indistinct] documents in the economic circulation. Proceeding from the need to allow the enterprises time to become familiar with progressive forms of payments, which secure a guaranteed acceleration of the receipt of costs, especially on the basis of using promissory notes, and in order to prevent division in the economic ties set up by agreements through reasons of an organizational character, all enterprises and banking establishments are recommended to use the following as guidance:

Until the end of this year, to allow enterprises, regardless of their form of property, to make payments on the territory of Ukraine using payment claims with a preliminary acceptance of the payer;

In connection with the implementation of a new payment system at the beginning of 1993, enterprises, while forming and concluding agreements on economic relations for 1993, should envisage in them forms of payments which correspond to the need, by method of modern management—by a promissory note, a payment letter, a check, an irrevocable letter of credit, and claim guarantee.

Special attention should be paid to using a promissory note as an unconditional instrument guaranteed by law of payment and the basis for receiving credit. Banks will grant privileged credit connected with the use of that form of payment. Enterprises and commercial banks must, by the end of this year, carry out necessary work defining the most progressive forms of payment proceeding from the specific

character of the activity of each client. This will secure the biggest reduction of time between delivery of produce, provision of services, and receipt of payment for them. Forms of payments and samples of payment documents between economic structures of other countries will be fixed in accordance with inter-state treaties and will be made known to clients by banks. Commercial banks and their branches must inform all their clients immediately on this [word indistinct].

Fokin on Grain, Hard Currency Shortage

LD3107210592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2009 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa July 31 TASS—"We already have grain in Ukraine. This means we are a state," Ukrainian Premier Vitold Fokin told ITAR-TASS, meeting the president administration in the Odessa region and representatives of the Ukrainian president in the area today.

Fokin admitted, at the same time, they will collect and sell much less grain than usual, mainly because of the drought in Ukrainian southern regions, that will create a certain tension. Thus, the meeting focused on measures to provide for the optimum volume of grain sales to the states, as well as prevention of loss of cattle and poultry.

The premier noted Ukraine does not have enough hard currency to buy grain abroad. This year it will buy up to 700,000 tonnes of grain in the United States, and will, probably, receive another 100,000 tonnes at the expense of the EC credit.

Fokin said they have rouble cash deficit in Ukraine and noted the population keeps about 300 billion roubles. At the same time, he stated with satisfaction the agreement they have reached with the Russian leadership will enable equivalent exchange of a considerable amount of coupons to roubles in early August.

Expresses 'Anxiety'

LD3107214492 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Pavlovych Fokin was visiting Odessa oblast today. He visited Odessa Shipping Company where he showed interest in the problems of this extremely important branch of the national economy, in the results of economic activity, the utilization of imported equipment, and in prospects for transferring vessels under the state flag of Ukraine.

In Kominternovskoye rayon the head of the Ukrainian Government visited fields of the "20th CPSU Congress" and "Ukrayina" collective farms, and the grain threshing floor of Kominternovskoye poultry farm. During conversations with grain growers, the course of gathering the harvest and the pace of delivering grain to state granaries were discussed. Anxiety was expressed in connection with the critical situation which has taken shape in this and some other rayons of Odessa oblast, where many collective and state farms have extremely low grain output due to heat and drought—13-14 quintals per hectare. Special attention was paid to rendering effective help to such farms and providing them with seeds and feed. Specific propositions were made with regard to conducting the next sowing campaign and wintering public and individual livestock in an organized way.

Vitold Fokin noted that in spite of the drought, the situation with [words indistinct] is not bad on the whole. Grain is available. Its total yield is a little higher than had been predicted. The immediate task of the grain growers is to preserve the harvest they have grown, not to keep it at threshing floors, but to send it to reception centers. As is known, the wholesale prices for grain at present have come very close to, and in certain cases, have exceeded world prices. Therefore, there are no reasons for waiting and counting on someone benefiting from someone else's trouble. Ukraine can and must fully provide itself with grain.

A wide range of issues of agricultural production was examined during the meeting of Prime Minister Vitold Pavlovych Fokin with Odessa oblast agriculture workers. Ilyin, the presidential representative in Odessa oblast, was on the tour of the oblast with Fokin.

Congress of Democratic Forces Sets Aims

LD0208213992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Report from Kiev by correspondent Mikhail Makarov]

[Text] A congress of national democratic forces of Ukraine [Kongress natsionalno-demokraticheskikh sil Ukrainy], which is being set up, sees as its goal, the consolidation of all national democratic forces in order to develop and affirm Ukrainian statehood. The congress participants believe that its creation will respond to the necessity to unite efforts in the future electoral campaign, which will take place on a multiparty basis, and to enter the elections as a united bloc of the center-right forces.

Taking part in the congress are 16 parties and organizations of the Ukraine, the most representative of them in terms of numbers being the Ukrainian Republican party, Ukrainian Democratic Party, the Ukrainian Christian Democratic Party, Prosvita [Education and National Heritage] Society, and a number of other public, cultural, religious, women's and veterans' organizations.

Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka], the largest organization of national-democratic hue, is taking part in the congress as an observer. This decision was taken by Rukh's Lesser Rada [council], which had convened the day before the congress started. Nevertheless, some Rukh organizations decided to take part in the congress. The fact that at its third congress Rukh took a decision on departization and thus, ceased to be a

consolidating force, is believed by the originators of the meeting to have been one of the major reasons of the emergence of the congress.

The participants in the congress have worked out the priority principles of their work. These are: Achieving full state independence and Ukraine's withdrawal from the CIS; and development of the unitary state and dismissal of the present Cabinet of Ministers.

Participants in the new coalition have voiced a desire to build a law-governed national state, with national minorities being widely involved in this process. In the field of economics, the congress aims to create a society of owners, through developing dynamic reforms and giving priority to national enterprise. The participants in the new coalition also proclaim the necessity for secure social protection for Ukrainian society.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk sent a message of greetings to the congress. The message points out that this association is worthy of attention and may be supported. The congress of national democratic forces will conclude its work this evening, 2 August.

Representatives To Protect Servicemen Interests

LD3107214892 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Today Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Pavlovych Fokin issued instructions on appointing plenipotentiary representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers for social protection of servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard, Border Troops, Convoy Troops, and Security Service in all oblasts of Ukraine and in the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol. The representatives will be elected by officers from the most deserving and professionally trained officers of the active service and also officers in the reserve. The main task of representatives for social protection of servicemen consists in cooperating with presidential representatives, officer's assembly, the Union of Officers of Ukraine, committees of soldier's mothers and other public organizations and in guaranteeing the fulfillment of laws of Ukraine, president's decrees and resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers directed at social protection of servicemen.

Officers Union Complains of Army Standards

LD0108193192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] A regular plenum of the executive committee of the Ukraine Officers Union took place in Kiev today. The report by union chairman Colonel Omelchenko and the speeches of those who took part in the plenum contained a common thought: The building of the national armed forces in our country is not proceeding satisfactorily, and this is due to the general crisis of society. From the former Soviet Army the Ukrainian Army inherited such things as so-called authorized fazing and bullying, desertion, draft evasion, corruption, and mafia structures. In the last three months alone, military intelligence and the Officers Union prevented 4.5 billion rubles' worth of military equipment and weapons from being taken outside Ukraine.

Officers Appeal to Leaders Over Housing

LD3107210892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Officers of the Nikolayev garrison today appealed to the Ukrainian president, the parliament, and the Defense Ministry in connection with the situation which has arisen as regards providing servicemen with housing. The officers and warrant officers of the new Ukrainian Army, the appeal notes, are forced to walk through the city like the poor and ask who will give them a place to stay. The atmosphere is gradually heating up. There is already talk of strikes and demonstrations, of seizing buildings and apartments, and of the necessity of demanding decisively their constitutional right to housing. While it is not too late, the appeal states, help us break through the wall of callousness and indifference, give us practical help, otherwise the consequences will not be long in coming.

Nationalists Demand Trial for Communist Party

LD3107113992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Participants in the conference of Ukrainian Nationalists of Ternopol District of this region demanded a public trial over the Communist Party of Ukraine. They also supported similar appeals of RUKH and other public organizations and political parties in Ukraine. At the same time it was stressed that the public proceedings over the former Communist Party of Ukraine must unconditionally testify that Ukraine condemns totalitarianism.

Byelarus

Republic Begins Assembling Armed Forces

LD0208043792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] RIKA reports that the Republic of Byelarus is now forming its own armed forces units. A mechanized brigade has been set up in the Grodno area. Byelarus Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy says that 100 military units will be in existence by the end of the year.

Ministry Says Army Should Be Outside Politics

LD3107191392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1725 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Vladimir Glod for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 31 Jul—"The Army of Byelarus should be outside politics," states a report by the Byelarus Defense Ministry circulated today. This document was prompted by activities of the Byelarusian Association of Servicemen [Belarusskoye Obedineniye Voyennosluzhashchikh; BAS]. The report says that "the BAS leadership ignores decisions by the Supreme Soviet and government on the reforming and manning of the Armed Forces, and that the national aspect in the military constuction, which is based on the implementation of the law on citizenship in the Republic of Byelarus, is being deliberately distorted." On this basis, the association "is carrying out active political work among troops, calling it patriotic activity. The BAS members, the majority of whom are officers, are trying to set up their own organizational structures in formations and units, which leads to the stratification of servicmen's collectives and officers according to their nationality and political views."

The Defense Ministry address notes that through its work it seeks to implement the real depolitization of the Armed Forces, and in this connection is resolutely against attempts to introduce a political aspect into the life of troops. The Defense Ministry believes that servicmens' participation in politically oriented structures (political parties), as well as their creation and their functioning in any form in the Armed Forces, is impossible.

Russian Troops To Withdraw in 'Seven Years'

LD2807181392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1039 GMT 28 Jul 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Valentina Menshikova for TASS]

[Text] Minsk July 28 TASS—Russian troops will withdraw from Byelarus in seven years, according to the republican parliament speaker. During the period the strength of the Byelarusian Army will grow up to 100 thousand people, Stanislav Shushkevich said on Tuesday [28 July] in a "direct line" talk with readers of the Byelarusian "ZVYAZDA" newspaper.

The Byelarusian branch of the Soviet Communist Party will remain banned in the republic as a new "Party of Byelarusian Communists has been registered and no one impedes its activity," Shushkevich said.

The speaker called on the people to boost economic development. "if everything goes on the way it is today, prospects are very dim", he said.

"Independence, consistency and concord are the path to be traversed by the country and each of us", he added.

Coordination Committee of 12 Groups Established

LD0208153992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] A coordination committee made up of 12 public and political movements has been set up in Minsk. Maksim Taburov has the details:

[Taburov] The committee includes the All-Byelarusian Slavic Sobor, the movement for the unity of Slavs, the social fund for officers in active service and in the reserves, and the veterans' movement. According to unconfirmed information, Communists, members of the DSPS [Movement for Democracy, Social Progress, and Justice], and liberal democrats have joined the coalition.

The coordination committee has drawn up a declaration on its program, which is now being studied in the factions amd will be published at the end of next week. Some of the provisions have been learned by this correspondent. The aims of movement include the elimination of nationalism in all its manifestations from the republic's political life, as well as achieving a way out of the crisis without social and nationalist confrontation under conditions of political stability and without lowering the living standards of working people. On the whole, these ideas are well known. There is nothing special in the appearance of this poltical bloc on the Byelarusian political scene. What is interesting are the methods the bloc of communist veterans, lumpen servicemen, and the falcon Zhirinovskiy plan to combat nationalism. Let's wait until the end of next week to see.

Moldova

Snegur Sends Message Asking For UN Observers

LD3107202192 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Russian 1800 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Message from Moldovan President Mircea Snegur to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali as published by MOLDOVA-PRESS Agency—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency:

I have the honor to inform you that on 21 July 1992 I, together with Russian Presidenr Boris Yeltsin, signed an agreement on the principles of a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the Dniester zone of the Moldovan Republic. This agreement, a copy of which I enclose, has

as its goal a cease-fire as soon as possible, and a settlement of the conflict through political methods, in strict accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and the CSCE.

After a cease-fire and the withdrawal of the forces (?involved in the conflict) a mechanism will be brought into action which was created by decision of the Moldovan, Romanian, Russian, and Ukrainian foreign ministers, which envisages the introduction of military observers and the utilization of reporters on the problems of observing human rights and of goodwill and mediation missions. The leadership of the Moldovan Republic considers it absolutely necessary to inform you about the measures which, we believe, will help the peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the norms of international law. Unfortunately however, our attempts aimed at eliminating the crisis through political methods are being blocked by destructive forces, which are continuing to crudely violate the cease-fire agreement, thus increasing the number of human casualties, particulary in the town of Bendery. All this causes us great concern and makes us doubt the sincerity of the opposing sides in settling the conflict by peaceful means.

Taking into account the aforementioned, I would be very grateful if you could examine the possibility of sending a mission of UN observors to the Moldovan Republic in order to monitor the implementation of measures envisaged by the agreement, and also the process of establishing peace in the eastern parts of the Moldovan Republic. I ask you to ensure that this message is disseminated in the Security Council as an official (?document). Availing myself of this opportunity, I want to assure you, Mr. Secretary General, of the firm aspiration of the Moldovan Republic's leadership to cooperate widely with the United Nations with the aim of preserving peace and international security.

[Signed] With respect, Mirca Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova
Chisinau, 31 July 1992

Snegur: Dniester Conflict Not Under Control

AU0208130292 Paris AFP in English 1236 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Chisinau, Aug 2 (AFP)—The situation in the conflict zone in eastern Moldova "is not yet under control" despite the deployment of tripartite peacekeeping forces in the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, according to Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

Control by the Russian, Moldovan and Dniester peacekeepers is a necessary first step for peace, in Snegur's view.

The president has put his position at risk, facing the ire of Moldovan nationalists, by agreeing to the deployment of the peacekeepers.

"History will prove me right," Snegur told AFP. His future depends on the rapid stabilisation of the conflict between the Moldovan forces and Russian-speaking separatists in the region, which refuses any rapprochement with Romania.

The president's programme of moderate nationalism won him 80 percent of the vote last December, but the population is uneasy about the presence of the Russian peacekeepers, deployed as part of a peace accord signed July 21 with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The deaths of several people and wounding of others since early Wednesday when the tripartite force was put in place has increased anxiety in the region.

Snegur believes the accord was the only solution, saying "other means were not appropriate for Moldova." He rejected that Moldovan defeats mid-June around Bendery, the only Russian-speaking town in western Dniester, had forced him to accept a Russian solution.

Others, such as Vasiliy Roman, the volunteer force commander in Cocieri, a Moldovan stronghold north of the Russian-speaking town of Dubossary, are sceptical of the accord.

"We do not believe in these peacekeeping forces, it is a complete farce. How could the Russian army be neutral having taken part in the previous conflict?"

"If there is any trouble, fighting between neutral Russian forces and Moldovans cannot be ruled out," he said.

The powerful Popular Front has severely criticised Snegur's concession of self-determination for Dniester's Russian-speakers in the event of Moldova joining Romania.

Petre Mountero, a Popular Front member, outlined his party's fervent nationalist opposition to all concessions on the Dniester question. Of the accord, he said: "The text has no legal weight whatsoever. It is a plot aimed at future negotiations. If the president signed such a treaty he should resign.

"Reunification with Romania will happen sooner or later and will include the Dniester region as it falls within the jurisdiction of the Republic of Moldova," he said.

The front says it will "fight to the end for the country's territorial integrity," but nevertheless favours a concession on the status of Tiraspol, the Dniester capital, with its 80 percent Russian-speaking population.

The front, which supported Snegur in the December elections, now denounces "former apparatchiks who parlayse reform and bend to Moscow."

A sign of Snegur's growing isolation is his failure to assemble a coalition government in month-long talks.

Snegur Signs Weapons Decree on Dniester

OW0108130292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1220 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Saturday [1 August] the Moldovan President Mircea Snegur signed a decree on realization of an agreement on peaceful settlement of the Dniestrian armed conflict. The decree charges the Defense Ministry, National Security Ministry, and Internal Ministry with the task of defining the order of detecting, gathering, registering, and storage of weapons, ammunitions, and high explosives which are being handed over by the detachments of these ministries being withdrawn from the eastern regions of Moldova during 24 hours.

Snegur ordered to the personnel of these detachment to urgently hand over weapons and ammunitions, high explosives, trophy weapons as well, to the representatives of the appropriate ministries. The citizens who are unlawfully keeping or storing guns, ammunitions, high explosives must hand them over in the course of 10 days.

Besides 5 days are granted to corresponding departments for developing certain measures aimed at detecting and instituting criminal proceedings against persons who unlawfully keep and carry weapons and measures on its confiscation.

Foreign Minister Sends Message on Conflict

AU3107121892 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Gabriel Ionescu report from Chisinau]

[Text] Mr. Nicolae Tiu, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Moldova, has sent a message to his counterparts in Romania, Ukraine, and Russian Federation, which emphasizes that Moldova deems it necessary that the representatives of the ministers of foreign affairs in the four-way commission should be appropriately empowered to organize cooperation between the military observers of the four countries and the peacekeeping military contingents.

Mr. Nicolae Tiu expressed words of great appreciation for the mechanism of political consultations created by the ministers of foreign affairs from the four countries. The chief of the Moldovan diplomacy believes that it is necessary for this mechanism to continue to function until the conflict has been settled. The message stresses that, following the signing of the Moscow agreement between Presidents Mircea Snegur and Boris Yeltsin on 21 July, a new situation has been created which requires a definition and specification of the functions of the military observers from the four states. The agreement stipulates the possibility for the groups of military observers to use the mechanism created through the Chisinau statement by the four ministers of foreign affairs on 6 April 1992—primarily through the introduction of military observers and the utilization of the group of reporters on human rights issues—and through the goodwill and mediation mission, an activity that is being coordinated by the four-way commission.

The minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Moldova, the communique of the Ministry Press Bureau continues, deems it necessary for the military observers to continue to exercise their functions of monitoring the observance of the cease-fire and the disengagement of the forces involved in the conflict.

The situation in Tighina continues to be tense, the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Moldova announced. Attacks with firearms and mine launchers continued last night. Automatic fire and grenade explosions could be heard at 1330, 2140, 2150 and up to 2300. At 2327 and at 0025 the city police station in Tighina and the police posts close by were attacked. Firing stopped at 0300 in the morning. Two policemen were killed and several were wounded. However, the cease-fire accord was observed in the areas of Cocieri, Cosnita, and Chitcani.

Curfew Proclaimed in Bendery; Meetings Banned

LD0108184792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1729 GMT 1 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Bendery August 1 TASS—Curfew between 10 P.M. and 6 A.M. was announced to come into effect in the city of Bendery as of August 1st. The peace keeping forces' commandant, Russian Colonel Mikhail Zhdanene, proclaimed prohibition of rallies and other mass meetings not agreed upon with the city's authorities and the commandant's office.

Satisfaction With Peacekeeping Efforts Noted

OW3007160592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldova's presidential adviser on military issues, head of Moldova's delegation to the Control Commission on the settlement of the dispute in Dniester Nicolae Kirtoake addressed the Moldovan Parliament in Chisinau today. He expressed satisfaction over the bringing of the separating armed forces to the troubled area, though pointing out the fact that the Russian armed forces which separate the warring factions must leave the Moldovan territory at the first request of the Moldovan leadership.

Official Puts Cost of War at 16 Billion Rubles

OW0308102792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0925 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to information from Tiraspol and Chisinau, it was relatively quiet in Dniester Monday [3 August] night.

Meanwhile, the Dniestern Parliament's leader Grigoriy Marakutsa has told newsmen in Tiraspol that the region has sustained a damage worth 16 billion rubles as a result of fighting since spring. By preliminary figures, 425 people lost their lives and nearly 1500 others were wounded from March 1st through June 29th. Of the 750 thousand strong population of Dniester, some 100 thousand have become refugees.

Fighting, Situation in Dniester Reported

PM3107191792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Aug 92 p 1

[Anatoliy Stasovskiy report: "Dniester Region: Shells Exploding in Dubossary Once More"]

[Text] The situation has deteriorated in the Dniester Region, on the Kochiyer bridgehead. Dniester Moldovan Republic deputy Andrey Safonov, general director of OLVIYA-PRESS, told the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA editorial office about the bombardment of Dubossary from Korzhevo and Kochiyer. On the evening of 30 July and during the night of 30-31 July several shells were fired on reinforced concrete plant No. 9 and the city's weather station. At 0735 hours 31 July on the Koshnitsa bridgehead Dniester guardsmen's positions came under small arms fire.

Andrey Safonov links the worsening of the situation with the Moldovan side's attempt to wreck or at least freeze the peace agreements and the process of disengaging the armed formations.

Safonov's opinion is shared by Fedor Dobrov, chairman of the Bendery Workers Committee, with whom I managed to speak. He thinks that Moldova does not want to lose the bridgeheads which it has taken. According to Fedor Dobrov, Russian peacekeeping subunits have taken up position in Bendery. Four apartment blocks in the city have burned down as a result of mortar bombardment. People have been killed and injured.

The Moldovan Defense Ministry press center refused to comment on events near Dubossary.

According to MOLDOVA-PRESS, Nicolae Kirtoake, the Moldovan president's military adviser, who spoke in parliament 30 July, said that the Russian troops within the disengagement forces must leave the republic's territory on the Moldovan leadership's first request if they fail to comply with the documents that have been signed.

Separation of Combatants Begins

LD0108132192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1236 GMT 1 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Bendery (Moldova), 1 Aug—The separation of the armed formations of the warring sides began in Bendery [Tighina] at 1300 today. As an ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned in the Bendery commandant's office, the central military headquarters of the peacekeeping forces and the investigation group charged with maintaining public order will be housed here in the town police building, according to a decision by the commission monitoring compliance with the agreement. The same source reported that the Bendery police were not being withdrawn from the town, as that was the prerogative of the Moldovan Republic's Government.

Police Use Force To Disperse Hunger Strikers

LD3107160192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 31 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau July 31 TASS—The Moldovan police used force to disperse participants in a hunger-strike near the monument to Stefan Chel Mare in Chisinau the STATUL TSERY (the COUNTRY'S COUNCIL) newspaper reported on Friday [31 August].

The strikers strongly criticised an agreement on the peaceful settlement of the Dniester conflict signed in Moscow and demanded that the government of national reconciliation resign.

The city's residents, tired of war, paid little attention to the strike, but the police, long suffering in the trenches, were thoroughly irritated by the strikers.

The Chisinau police told TASS that an investigation had begun. The police believe the hunger-strikers, who included many people with psychiatric disorders, resembled a provocation to attract public attention so as to destabilise the situation in the city.

Statement Denies Brutality

LD3107193192 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Russian 1800 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Statement by the Press Bureau of the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs]

[Text] The Press Bureau of the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs is authorized to announce that at 1800 today, 31 July, Channel One of the Teleradio company Ostankino in its Novosti program, citing ITAR-TASS, broadcast information to the effect that Moldovan police supposedly beat up hunger strikers in the center of Chisinau and threatened them with violence and shooting. The ITAR- TASS correspondent in Chisinau stressed this information and notes without signing his name in the [word indistinct] newspaper on 31 July.

The Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs states that no such thing has taken place, and this is disinformation aimed at further worsening the situation, discrediting the bodies of law and order, and is a call for disobedience to the legal authorities. The Ministry of Internal Affairs retains the right to sue the aforementioned representative of the mass media for spreading slanderous falsehoods.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Appeals for Support for Democratic Reform

LD0108145492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 1 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev has appeared on national television making an appeal to the people.

[Begin Akayev recording] The process of democratic reform—both economic and political—is progressing with difficulty and with interruptions in Kyrgyzstan. What is particularly worrying is that losses are ensuing, and so far there have been no tangible positive results for the people plagued by misfortunes as they face growing daily problems. All of this is complicating the situation in the republic and is giving the open and hidden opponents of reform an excuse for confirming that they are right, that we have chosen the wrong path, and that we should have conducted things in a totally different way. [end recording]

[Correspondent V. Fedorov] The alarm signal from Askar Akayev was heard at the last session of the republic's Supreme Soviet at which they discussed his draft constitution. Critical blows rained down from left and right. Among the leaders of the opposition is Dzhumgalbek Amanbayev, the former leader of the republic's Communist Party, who is ready to take in hand the single nationality democratic movement, which is weakened by dissension. It seems that Akayev today enjoys more support abroad than at home, but destabilization of the situation could lead to a cooling off in foreign goodwill.

Akayev on Turkish Model, Notes Ethnic Situation

NC3107160092 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 18 Jul 92 p 11

[Report by Sema Emiroglu from Bishkek: "Cetin Holds Talks With Akayev"]

[Excerpt] Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev has said that Turkey plays an important role in realizing reforms in his country and noted: "We want to be a secular country like Turkey."

Akayev received a group of Turkish journalists, including a MILLIYET representative, in the parliament building in Bishkek, from where he conveyed a warm message to President Turgut Ozal.

Akayev received Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe, who arrived in Bishkek from Alma-Ata yesterday. Akayev later received the Turkish journalists who accompanied Cetin.

Noting that Turkey is oriented more to the West than to the Islamic countries, Akayev said: "We want to be secular like Turkey, with human values prevailing." Akayev also asserted that his country has drawn up a development and restructuring program. "It is based on concrete proposals. Turkey, the first country to support Kyrgyzstan has made $75 million available to it. Several countries in Europe support this program, which is like a Marshal Plan. We are grateful to Turkey, with which we want to establish closer relations."

Noting that a new constitution has been drawn up in Kyrgyzstan and debated by the political parties, the people, and parliament, Akayev said: "We will adopt a new approach in our reforms, particularly on the question of private ownership. The people will buy and sell property freely. The constitution includes provisions relating to private ownership, human rights, and individual freedoms."

Drawing attention to the problems of establishing democracy while trying to improve the economy, Akayev asserted: "This is easy for us because we have a long history of democracy. A queen ruled northern Kyrgyzstan 100 years ago when the country was divided into two parts, northern Kyrgyzstan and southern Kyrgyzstan. A woman ruled that part of the country years before Benazir Bhutto came to power. You have seen that our country has mosques for Muslims, churches for Christians, and shrines for Buddhists."

Akayev agreed that his country has ethnic problems, adding that 80 different ethnic groups live there. Noting that cultural autonomy has been granted to the German people who arrived in Kyrgyzstan in World War II and that schools have been built for them, Akayev said that he and Chancellor Helmut Kohl agreed some time ago that measures must be taken to discourage the German minority from immigrating.

Akayev said he hoped that President Turgut Ozal would soon recover and visit Kyrgyzstan on 10 September as he promised. [passage omitted]

Tajikistan

Further on Implementation of Khorog Accord

Nabiyev Issues Decree

LD3107222392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Rahmon Nabiyev, president of the Republic of Tajikistan, has issued a decree on measures to speedily normalize the sociopolitical situation in the republic and implement the Khorog peace agreement, which says in part:

In order to implement decisions taken by the leadership and government of the republic aimed at ending armed confrontation between the opposing sides, prevention of fratricide and implementation of peace agreement

signed in Khorog city on 27 July between leaders and representatives of the political parties and movements, the clergy and leaders of the armed formations, state authorities and social organizations, I decree:

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan on 29 July of the current year decided to establish a comission to implement Article 8 of the above-mentioned agreement. The oblast, town, and rayon executive committees (?are asked) to establish such commissions in the [word indistinct] of the republic by 2 August 1992. It is decided that the handing over of weapons should take place with the participation of the above-mentioned commissions. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Security Committee, and the Defense Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan should specify the areas where weapons will be handed in. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, the oblast, town, and rayon executive committees should provide the above-mentioned commissions with transportation and communication facilities and accommodation which they need to perform the tasks assigned to them. The issue of [word indistinct] weapons from people who acquired them for their own and their family's protection [words indistinct].

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Security Committee and the [word indistinct] group of Red Banner Border District of Central Asia are duty bound to adopt all necessary measures to implement the Khorog peace agreement, to pay special attention to full and timely implementation of Articles 9 and 10 of this agreement, and to prepare and enforce a joint operation plan for the assured protection of state borders and prevention of the illegal supply of military arms and equipment to the territory of the republic.

Article 6 of this decree says that those citizens of the republic of Tajikistan, who during May-July 1992 illegally violated the state border and have crossed to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, will not be criminally made liable if they return to the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan without arms by 1 September 1992 or to return to the homeland via border posts and voluntarily hand in their weapons.

Appeals For Support

LD0108161392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 1 Aug 92

["Appeal" by President Rahmon Nabiyev to the people of Tajikistan; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen! Today it is known to all the young and old people of the republic that the situation, irrespective of the many attempts of [word indistinct], is very worrying. The presence of firearms in the hands of individuals and forces (?worsens the situation). Another consequence of this is a considerable increase in crime. The situation is particularly difficult in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, where opposing groups have gathered there. For this reason the people have lost hope and have even moved.

On many occasions I have told you, my dear fellow countrymen, about the consequences of this situation. Currently I would like to remind you once again that after this, it is not possible to live like this. The situation cannot be left unsupervised. The presidential office and the national government have taken special measures under the conditions of independence and freedom.

The time has come for each one of us to define our position in relation to this tragedy. Each one of us ought to understand that we are going (?on our own chosen path) for an independent state and protection of a unified Tajikistan. Each one of us should understand that after this, the existence of the Tajiks, a liberated country with an ancient culture, depends on our choice. [Word indistinct] the calamity that has come over the republic and all its [word indistinct] consequences, to understand to what kind of difficult consequences it can (?lead to). At the same time, I have confidence in the sense and wisdom of our dear people. I am fully confident that our people are living in these difficult times with courage and that in every family there will be peace and calm.

We must also understand that only waiting in the hope for peace cannot bring peace and calm. It is necessary to strive and wish for peace every day and night, every second. Taking this into account, on (?30) July, I invited the leaders of the Supreme Soviet, Cabinet of Ministers, [word indistinct], law and order bodies, servicemen, and chairmen of the executive committees of the city of Dushanbe and regions in the republic for talks. Inviting them for direct talks, I placed the issue at the center. It is still not late for this issue—the disarming of the opposing sides. Thus it is known to everyone that until we confiscate the arms, we cannot bring about the stabilization of the situation in the republic and an end to the fratricidal war.

The important agreement that we now have provides a lot of possibilities for the government bodies. This is the Khorog agreement. This agreement was achieved with the [word indistinct] of the leaders and representatives of parties, movements, armed formations, clergymen, leaders of cities, rayon, oblast, trade unions, and [word indistinct], and the leaders of the republic. The peace agreement that came about as a result of the [word indistinct] and reconciliation of the opposing sides [word indistinct] the way for tackling the sociopolitical and economic tasks of the republic. I do not only consider this agreement as a document solely for confiscating arms. This agreement is a (?very valuable) document. It showed once again that the various parties, movements who have completely different positions, can at the decisive moment through talks, (?exchanging) views, party [word indistinct], [word indistinct], and (?criticism) can reach an agreement on saving Tajikistan. This provides great possibilities for reaching our highest aim of protecting the unity of our state.

It is important that we use this great chance for finding and studying the nature of statehood. Today this thought has boiled [word indistinct] of many people. I am also for [word indistinct] of the nature of statehood. However, not by means of threat, force, and pressure, but rather, through [word indistinct] means. Today, more than at any time before, we ought to work based not on sentiments, but rather, on our (?sense) and wisdom. Every [word indistinct] of ours should be vigilant. In this work it is not necessary to [word indistinct]. From this point of view the various separate points of the agreement demands the adoption of a series of presidential decrees and decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers. The office of the president has already prepared these documents and the Cabinet of Ministers has also been instructed to adopt the corresponding decisions. I am confident that you have acquainted yourself, esteemed fathers and mothers, dear brothers and sisters, with the decree on the steps for the speedy normalization of the sociopolitical situation in the republic and the implementation of the Khorog peace agreement.

This decree is the result of that talk, but this is only the start of the work. The work of implementing the agreement after this will continue. In this work it is important that the work already started should not be jeopardized. I think everyone is [word indistinct] to this. The other day I received two large groups of peoples deputies. There was only one topic of discussion: the implementation of the agreement. I would like to emphasize once again that the president and his office fully and completely approve the peace agreement and seriously request from all residents of Tajikistan to implement it without any reservations. Moreover, I would like to remind you that we have adopted a number of documents for the confiscation of arms long before the Khorog talks. Unfortunately, for various reasons they were not implemented. Today it is necessary for us to show political wisdom and speak with (?tolerance) and sense so that with one misplaced word, we do not make a friend a stranger and that we prevent the peace that has just been achieved to be lost.

Supervisory Presidium Formed

LD3107205192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Uzbek 1400 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] In line with the decree of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Supreme Soviet Presidium, a republican commission, has been formed in order to supervise the implementation of the conditions of the Agreement signed on 27 July 1992 in Khorug city. Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet, will chair the commission. Davlat Usmonov, deputy prime minister of the republic, and Abdullo Khabibov, chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet Committee for Legislation, Law and Order, and Human Rights, have been appointed deputy chairmen of the commission. Members of the Republic's government, all parties and movements, local government organs, heads of and representatives from the armed formations, are present in the commission.

Nabiyev Reviews Weapons Confiscation

OW0108154092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Simultaneously with the adoption of a decree on measures aimed at urgent stabilization of social-political situation in the republic and realization of the Khorog agreement on peace, the Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev conducted a session of the leaders of ministries and departments, local institutions of power, representatives of law-enforcement bodies. The main point of the agenda included discussion of the implementation of the President's decrees and governmental resolutions on confiscation of weapons and ammunitions unlawfully stored by the population and different groupings.

Nabiyev charged the government to solve the issue on financing a special regiment of the Internal Ministry formed for disarming the population and on allocating necessary funds for purchasing weapons from the citizens who had bought the guns to defend their lives and property.

The law-enforcement structures must urgently solve an issue on confiscation of weapons in Dushanbe. The participants of the session decided that the leaders of political parties staying in Dushanbe and having armed body-guards at their disposal must be first to begin the process of disarmament.

The agreement on peace in Tajikistan was signed on July 27 in Khorog (Gorno-Badakhshanskaya province) by representatives of authorities, political parties, different armed groupings.

Further on Arms, Economy

LD0108172492 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] President Rakhmon Nabiyev yesterday held a meeting with a working committee of deputies which was instructed to make practical preparations for the extraordinary session of the Tajik Supreme Soviet. The meeting examined questions on the committee's duration.

Rakhmon Nabiyev told the deputies about the meeting he held with leaders of law and order organs, during which his instruction that weapons be confiscated from the population was adopted. He noted that [words indistinct] to normalize the situation. The headquarters for disarmament has been instructed to make daily reports on the progress of this confiscation and to define by 2 August, specific places for the [words indistinct] from the population. It is hoped that these measures will help to stabilize the situation, especially in the capital.

The deputies supported the president on this matter, noting that it will be difficult to guarantee the security of parliamentary sessions until 70 percent of weapons have been submitted. They consider it necessary to explain the Khorug agreement and the president's latest instruction to the people. They decided to postpone a decision on when to convene the Supreme Soviet.

The meeting devoted much attention to the economic difficulties which the deputies will have to discuss at an extraordinary session. It also discussed specific economic problems such as those in Kulyab Oblast. The delegates believe that the political situation in the region requires that these economic problems be tackled as a matter of urgency before parliament convenes.

The president instructed the members of the government to formulate firm measures on the questions examined.

Agreement Implementation Examined

LD0108140192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 0714 GMT on 1 August carries an 8-minute report from Tajikistan on the implementation of the Khorog agreement signed by leaders of various parties and movements, military commanders, and republican leaders on 27 July and that provides for the surrender of illegally held weapons. Correspondent Mikhail Nikulin states that "according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, just over 160 sub-machine guns and several other firearms had been given up by 31 July. However, according to some estimates more than 15,000 various firearms are held in the republic." Today, Nikulin continues, the republican press published the Tajik president's decree on stabilization. "Also published was a decision by the Supreme Soviet on the establishment of a commission to monitor the compliance with the conditions [of the Khorog agreement]. This commission has already begun its work in the hottest spot: Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, where all these armed clashes are taking place. The president of the republic is due to arrive in the oblast tomorrow or the day after tomorrow."

Nikulin says "a large, fierce clash took place between two large armed groups in Bakhtar region on 27 July. There were casualties on both sides."

Nikulin goes on to introduce (Grigoriy Venyaminovich Zegin), commander of a CIS tank regiment deployed in Dushanbe. (Zegin) denies the allegations that CIS troops' interference was to blame, saying that CIS units managed to stop the battle and that four Special Purpose Militia Unit soldiers were wounded along with a lieutenant colonel. (Zegin) denies the opposition's claims that drunken CIS officers interfered in the conflict and "exterminated" the local population. He goes on to say that Major General Ashurov, commander of "our" CIS division, went there to investigate, along with the military and Kurgan-Tyube Oblast procuracy officials, and the investigation has shown that these claims are completely groundless. Dushanbe television filmed the general's news conference, but, unfortunately, it was never aired. Someone wants very much to put all the blame on the CIS troops, (Zegin) concluded, saying that General Ashurov named those people and VECHERNYAYA DUSHANBE published their names. (Zegin) says that Deputy Prime Minister Davlat Usmon spoke on television immediately following these events and made these claims.

Uzbekistan

Ministry Reports on Agriculturul Projections

PM0308091492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by M. Ganiyev and S. Ziyamukhamedov]

[Text] [Ganiyev] By decision of the Uzbek Government, the area sown to cereals has been increased by 100,000 hectares this year alone. As a result of the unprecedented rainfall in the countryside, the harvest will be good both on nonirrigated and irrigated farmland. On average, combine operators are harvesting (?20) quintals each. Each Uzbek family in the countryside will get over 100 kg of wheat. However, Uzbekistan's entire grain output will still only meet one quarter of the population's consumption. Where is the rest to come from? The usual economic ties have broken down and some political analysts are already forecasting famine in the republic. However, I was told at the Uzbek Ministry of Grain Products, that this is just a malicious fabrication because a contract has been concluded with Kazakhstan to supply wheat by barter, in addition to the fact that Uzbekistan has bought 2 million tonnes of grain from Turkey. Therefore, the republic is not going to have a grain problem, and Tashkent will continue to receive bread.

Decree on Foreign Investment Comes 'Into Force'

LD0208091692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] A decree by the president of Uzbekistan on ways to boost foreign trade and attract and protect foreign investment came into force on 1 August. The RIKA agency reports that the decree creates a most-favored environment for foreign investors. In particular, it envisages the lifting of import taxes for one and a half years. Enterprises with foreign investments will also be exempt from income tax for their first five years of operation. The NEGA agency further notes that foreign investors and their partners are being given the right to buy up factory space, plants, and housing and also to take out long-term leases on plots of land.

Karimov on Turkish Economic Model

OW3107212792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov called Turkey's approach toward economic development the most acceptable for Uzbekestan at a meeting in Tashkent Friday [31 July] with Andre Mark Brunello, correspondent from the French newspaper "LIBERATION". However, the president stressed that the republic "doesn't plan to blindly copy the Turkish model." According to Karimov, those politicians who say that Uzbekestan has a "new big brother" are completely incorrect.

Karimov stated that Uzbekestan is firmly following the course of a democratic state, where values common to all mankind are fundamental. The president added that "Uzbekestan has selected a refined path of development for itself and will not stray from it." He pointed out that only a confident entrance into the world economic system could become a reliable guarantor of stabilization for everyone.

Karimov touched upon the events in neighboring Tajikistan and urged them to move quickly and "not contribute to the fire of international discord."

Importance of Union With Other Republics Noted

OW3107212892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "In the midst of all the negative aspects of the USSR's functioning, the union with other republics was of the utmost good for Uzbekistan," announced Uzbekestan's Minister of Justice Mukhamed-Babur Malikov in an interview with INTERFAX Friday [31 July]. "Having pushed through the window to Europe, Russia opened the window for our republic as well. An understanding of this is becoming more and more obvious. We'll become increasingly aware of the fact that we can't exist without one another."

Appeal Made on Refugees in Tajik Valley

OW3107184092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Concern for the fate of "hundreds of thousands populating the Vaksh Valley in Tajikistan" has been expressed in an appeal by the people of that region received by President Islam Karimov's office.

The authors of the appeal - members of an early session held by the Leninabad Council - warn that "the crisis in Tajikistan may affect the political and economic situation in the entire Central Asian region". They worry over the fact that the fratricidal war in the south of the republic has made hundreds of thousands leave their native lands. "Some of those people find shelter in Uzbekistan where they give headaches to the local authorities", explains the appeal.

"The multi-national 1.7 mn [million] population of the region, a third of it Uzbek, wishes nothing but brotherhood, good-neighbourliness, and cooperation", states the appeal.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The Leninabad region of Tajikistan borders on several regions of Uzbekistan.

Armenia

Republic Ratifies Collective Security Treaty

LD3107173692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 31 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Armenia has ratified the CIS collective security treaty. This means that in the event of a military conflict between Armenia and another state, the mechanism for the Commonwealth Armed Forces' entry into the conflict comes into force.

Russia's Peace Proposal Studied 'Closely'

OW2907135792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 29 Jul 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia is closely studying Russia's proposals concerning the ways to resolve the Karabakh crisis, said Ruben Shugaryan, the Armenian President's press secretary.

These proposals, he said, were handed to Armenian officials by the special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov who visited Yerevan, Stepanakert and Baku last week.

In comments on Russian initiatives R. Shugaryan said that they are better than what was suggested previously. According to him, the latest proposals clearly reflect the desire to work out "some mechanisms" for ensuring a truce.

Baku and Stepanakert welcomed the Russian proposals in principle.

When contacted by DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent V. Kazimirov preferred not to concretize Russia's initiatives, saying that it would be premature. Nevertheless he said he hopes that "the process of settlement in Karabakh might get launched after all by joint efforts".

Presidential Adviser Comments on Rome Talks

LD3007205292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Video report by V. Nazaryan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The latest stage in the Rome meeting to prepare a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Minsk international conference starts in the capital of Italy tomorrow. [video shows news conference]

[Nazaryan] At the beginning of this month, the meeting in Rome was broken off, since the Armenian delegation was obliged to suspend its participation. A new opportunity for talks has appeared. As Zhirayr Liparityan, adviser to the president of the republic, declared today at a news conference for Armenian and foreign journalists, the Armenian leadership has received from the meeting's organizers clear-cut assurances to the effect that the Armenian side's main condition—condemnation of the occupation by the Azerbaijani Army of Shaumyanovskiy and Mardakertskiy rayons in Nagorno-Karabakh—will be met.

A delegation from the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has also left for the Rome meeting. A decision on this was adopted by the Presidium of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic parliament after a message in which the representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh were called "officials elected by the people" reached Stepanakert. The message was from Mario Raffaelli, chairman of the Minsk conference. In other words, the status of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and its people in the CSCE has become more definite.

[Unidentified reporter] In the past two days, five previously captured villages in Mardakertskiy Rayon have been liberated. Next is Mardakert itself, where it proved possible today to overwhelm the Azerbaijani army's main weapon emplacements. [video shows uniformed men moving in mountainous terrain]

Further on Remarks

OW3107184892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "As before Armenia is ready to participate in any process which will assist in peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict", the presidential adviser on political issues Zhirayr Liparityan declared at his meeting with journalists on Thursday [30 July] evening. Nevertheless he pointed out that the republican leadership is waiting for more flexible activity of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE] and believes that the Rome conference will condemn "the Azeri aggression against Karabakh".

Our foreign policy is based on the conviction that security and well-being of Armenia depend on establishing normal relations with the neighbors, Liparityan continued.

Ter-Petrosyan's adviser greeted "some positive changes in the position" of the CSCE leadership on Karabakh war, but he pointed out that it is senseless to hope for any concessions from the CSCE "in respect to Lachin and Shusha".

Making comments on the Armenian approach to peaceful settlement, which differs from the attitudes of other states, Liparityan declared that the republic insists on "separating the issue on truce" from the general

agenda of Minsk conference on Karabakh. He said that this meeting must discuss issues on the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh and on rendering humanitarian aid to it". The adviser considers that a number of other countries-members of the CSCE begin to understand such an approach. Armenia's active participation in peacemaking process in the framework of the all- European structure does not exclude a possibility of work in other directions, establishing contacts with the UN, and different states.

"If the CSCE does not show flexibility placing the principle of territorial immunity above the right for self-determination of peoples then the conference will transform from a system of collective mediation into a body of complex pressure", Liparityan states. According to Liparityan, this transformation could lead to "new lawless actions and instability in the region".

Responding to an "IF" [INTERFAX] question, the presidential adviser said that "it is difficult to understand the fact of returning 19 Armenian captives by Azerbaijan: whether it is a sincere wish to establish a contact or it is a propagandist action provoked by the desire to gain points on the eve of the Rome meeting on the Karabakh issue". Nevertheless the Armenian leadership will "apparently undertake a counteraction".

Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, Other Areas Noted

NC3107180792 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] NAGORNO-KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY reported that the Armenian self-defense forces reached the suburbs of Mardakert early this morning. They are continuing their operations to silence the firing positions of the occupationist Azerbaijani armed formations. Most of the territory of Mardakertskiy Rayon is under the control of the Armenian self-defense forces.

An Azerbaijani attack plane bombed a residential district in Khodzhaly on 30 July, causing damage and killing two residents.

The situation is also tense in some of Armenia's border regions. The republic's official organs reported that Pardzruni in Vaykskiy Rayon and Yeraskh in Araratskiy Rayon came under artillery shelling from the direction of Nakhichevan last night and this morning; the shelling caused damage. The number of casualties is being determined.

[Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian at 1400 GMT on 31 July broadcasts a similar report, which adds the following: "On 30 July, 22 armed Azerbaijanis dressed in uniforms of the Special Purpose Militia tried to occupy two important hills near the border with Krasnoselskiy Rayon. Armenian border guards stopped the attack and forced them to retreat from Armenian territory. One Azerbaijani was killed and another injured during the exchange of fire."

[The radio adds: "Following prolonged talks the Azerbaijani blockade imposed on Artsvashen in Krasnoselskiy Rayon several days ago was lifted today. Early this morning the first car convoy left for the village through the only road linking it to Armenia. The inhabitants who had abandoned the village due to the unceasing shelling by the Azerbaijanis will also leave for the village."

["The leaders of Krasnoselskiy and Kedabekskiy rayons are continuing talks to put a final end to the conflict."]

Mardakert Fighting Continues

WA0207192092

[Editorial Report] Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 2 August transmits a Yerevan-datelined report by correspondent Tigran Liloyan on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. Liloyan reports that Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces are continuing operations to neutralize Azerbaijani firing points in the rayon center of Mardakert. Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 1500 GMT on 2 August cites reports from Yerevan as saying that the villages of Charektar and Agdan in Mardakert Rayon were captured on Sunday, 2 August, as a result of a counterattack by Armenian self-defense detachments. The Yerevan reports point to the KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY [KNA] as saying that firing positions and bases of the Azerbaijani Army were located there. No casualty or damage figures are given.

Ankara's TRT Television Network in Turkish at 1700 GMT on 2 August broadcasts a report from Baku by its correspondent, Ertugrul Bulent, describing the fighting in Karabakh's Agdere Rayon—called Mardakert Rayon by the Armenian side—as "fierce."

ITAR-TASS' Liloyan, citing KNA, states that on the evening of 1 August Azerbaijani formations began concentrated rocket and artillery shelling of certain Armenian villages in Nagorno-Karabakh's Askeran Rayon from the direction of Agdam and that sporadic fighting continues in this sector. The Radio Odin report adds that Azerbaijani troops have mounted "massive" artillery and rocket bombardments of the Armenian villages of Nakhichevanik and Vardadzor in Nagorno-Karabakh's Askeran Rayon, saying that an attempted attack on these villages ended in failure, though attacks continue in this direction.

Radio Odin goes on to cite reports from Baku that "bloody" battles continued on 2 August in Nagorno-Karabakh's Agderin Rayon and that the Azerbaijani Army is successfully repulsing Armenian attacks in Agdam Rayon. The TRT correspondent's report asserts that Armenian heavy artillery attacks the previous night on the villages of Nakhichevanik, Pirdzhamal, and Yeni Karalar in Agdam Rayon were repelled by Azerbaijani units. He says the Armenians also have launched an artillery attack from the Armenian city of (Belt) against the Azerbaijani border town of Tauz and various affiliated villages. Central Tauz is said to have been hit by two artillery shells that destroyed various buildings, but no

casualties are reported. The correspondent says that the Armenians kept the village of Hatun Bulak in Fizuli Rayon under artillery attack throughout the night, while Radio Odin notes that one Azerbaijani soldier is said to have been wounded in an exchange of fire in Fizulin Rayon and that population centers in Dzhebrail, Kedabekh, and Tauz Rayons also came under fire. Some damage, but no casualties were reported.

The ITAR-TASS report cites KNA as noting that during the evening and night of 1 August an SU-25 ground attack aircraft and a MiG-29 fighter belonging to the Azerbaijani side bombed the territory adjacent to the Armenian villages of Aykavan, Armenavan, and Gaybalu in Nagorno-Karabakh's Shushien Rayon. There is no information on casualties or damage.

Azerbaijan

President Decrees Joint Army, Ministry Command

LD3107215692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 31 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey has decreed the establishment of a joint command for subunits of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and voluntary detachments. The command is charged with planning and carrying out operations in the conflict zone.

Minister Orders People's Front To Disarm

NC3107153192 Baku TURAN in English 1443 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Baku, 31/07/92, TURAN—Defence Minister of Azerbaijan Rakhim Gaziyev issued an order to disarm all the armed units of the Popular Front. Such an order has been passed through destabilization of situation by these units and their insubordination to the military headquarters. [sentence as received]

Military units have been given an order to disarm these armed groups of the Popular Front.

Disarmament Order Welcomed

NC0308095492 Baku TURAN in English 0930 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 01/08/92, TURAN—The chairman of the major oppositional party in Azerbaijan—the National Independence Party—Etibar Mamedov backed the order of the defence minister Rakhim Gasan Ogly Gaziyev on disarmament of all armed units of the Popular Front and other political parties.

"A nation should have only one army, serving to the nation and state interests, but not to some political structures," declared Mamedov on July evening 31, giving an interview to the local TV.

The chairman denied the allegations, running that his party was going to carry out mass actions of protest against the current regime and called on his supporters not to hold meetings.

Mamedov also declared: "I would leave Azerbaijan, if it is required by the interests of the nation."

That TV address of the chairman was caused by sharp attacks on him by some leaders of the republic.

Defense Minister's Resignation Issue Dropped

OW3107165092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A representative of the Azeri military department told "IF" [INTERFAX] that at present the issue on the Azeri Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev's resignation was dropped. "The Minister continues to be at the head of the republican defense and is in the zone of hostilities", he said.

The representative of the Defense Ministry explained the statement of Rakhim Gaziyev about resignation which he presented in the parliament on July 28 by his wish to draw the attention of the president and the government to the problems of his department. According to the minister, the republican leadership has placed the burden of the military problems at the front on the Defense Ministry and does not render any effective assistance to it.

The parliament did not adopt Gaziyev's resignation as this issue must be solved by the president.

Reliable sources told "IF" that Gaziyev's statement forced the republican leadership to immediately begin solving of military problems: material and logistic support of the army, call-up and control over this process by the prosecutor's office, staff issues. A session of the State Committee on Defense headed by Abulfaz Elchibey is expected to discuss these issues in the near future. Gaziyev must prepare concrete proposals for this session. The Azeri parliament also intends to discuss military issues at its closed session next week.

Decree Reorganizing State Enterprises Signed

OW0208160992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Elchibey on Saturday [1 August] signed a decree saying that state and council-run businesses, retail trade and catering must reorganised and granted the status of legal entity until [as received] October 1.

However, any change of the ownership or the area of activity or non-compliance with earlier contracts is banned as is any change in the lease agreement terms.

The decree indicates that the move is aimed at meeting the population's demand for consumer goods and services and must be seen as a preparatory stage for the privatisation of state property.

Government Accuses Armenia of Using Poison Gas

OW3107185692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Azeri Defense Ministry, two men, two women and one child died in a hospital of the city of Terter as a result of poison gas attack on the city by Armenian forces which used poison gas cartridges from self-propelled artillery systems Friday [31 July] morning. All in all, more than 50 peaceful residents were hospitalized.

All accusations of using poison gas in the Armenian-Azeri conflict have not yet been confirmed independently.

Reports from Baku say that heavy fighting for taking control over the villages of Metsshen, Mokhradag, Magavuz and Oradag in the Agderinsky (Mardakert) region of Nagorno-Karabakh continued Friday with casualties on both sides. On the Azeri side 7 people were killed, 4 wounded. On the Armenian side 17 people were killed. Reports from Azerbaijan say Armenian forces are moving in the direction of the Kelbadzharsky and Lachinsky regions of Azerbaijan.

Defense Ministry Issues Update on Fighting

NC0208204392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has released the following report:

Nothing changed much last night in Agdere [Mardakertskiy] Rayon. Clashes for (Medshen), Mokhratag, and Magauz have continued unabated. The Azerbaijani Armed Forces still control Agdere and the nearby towns of Demirli and Ashagy Oratag.

The situation in Agdamskiy Rayon was tense on the night of 31 July. The towns of Khydyrly, Abdal, and Karachinar were fired on from Armenian positions throughout the night. The enemy forces in Turkhavend attempted to occupy Yenikaralar. However, our units forced the enemy to retreat.

The Armenians launched an attack on Nakhichevanik, Pirdzhamal, and [name indistinct] at 1730 today and clashes continue at this time.

Agdam in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon has been systematically fired on from Shafak and [name indistinct] in Agdere Rayon with various types of arms. Meanwhile, Azerbaijani units advanced in the direction of Lachin and entered Kockak. The units control Kockak now.

An Azerbaijani solder was wounded when Sur in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon was fired on from Shagat on 31 July.

The situation along our republic's border with Armenia was tense last night. Alibeyli in Tauzskiy Rayon and [name indistinct] and Karaveller in Kedabekskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenia. A KamAZ vehicle used by the Armenians hit a mine and exploded close to Aslanbeyli in Kazakhskiy Rayon. Two Armenian brigands were killed in the incident. They were carrying tools to build positions.

Sadarak and several positions in Sharurskiy Rayon in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic were fired on from Armenia with various types of arms. No one was killed and no damage was caused.

The situation in Fizulinskiy, Dzhebrailskiy, Kubatlinskiy, Zangelanskiy, Kelbadzharskiy, Agdamskiy, Kedabekskiy, Tauzskiy, and Akstafa Rayons was relatively peaceful today.

The Azerbaijani forces lost 28 tanks, 35 armored vehicles, 52 artillery guns, and two military aircraft in the combat operations that took place in Karabakh and on Azerbaijan's border with Armenia in June and July 1992.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center will hold a news conference in connection with the Caspian Flotilla's present situation at 1600 on 4 August 1992. Anyone wanting to attend can call the authorities by dialing: 396- 740 or 393-886. The Azerbaijani television network will broadcast a press center report on the news conference.

Armenian Capture of Mardakert Denied

TA0208062692 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 0500 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] It is reported that the Azerbaijani forces are advancing toward Lachin, south of Nagorno-Karabakh and that they have retaken a village from the Armenians.

TURAN and INTERFAX report that the Azeri forces are now controlling the village of Khodzhaz, a village 10 km from Lachin, which was taken by the Armenians in May. Seven Azeri soldiers were killed in the clashes in the area.

A statement issued by the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry spokesman said that there is heavy fighting between the Armenians and the Azeris in Agdere [Mardakert]. However, the statement categorically denied the reports from Yerevan that the Armenians entered the city of Agdere.

Lost Tanks, Vehicles in Nagorno-Karabakh Noted

OW0208125192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1205 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to data officially published in Baku on Sunday [2 August] by the Azeri defence ministry, Azerbaijan lost 28 T-72 tanks, 35 armoured vehicles, 56 artillery installations and 2 combat planes in military actions in the area of its conflict with the Armenians in June and July.

According to information IF [INTERFAX] received at the ministry, intensive fighting went on in the past 24 hours for the Metshen, Mohradvg and Magavuz population centers in Agderi District (the Azeri name for Mardakert District of Nagorno-Karabakh). One T- 72 tank and two armoured vehicles belonging to the Armenians were put out of action in the fighting.

In the meantime the Karabakh news agency (KNA) reports that as a result of a counter-offensive in Mardakert District the Armenian self-defence forces succeeded in establishing control over the villages of Charektar and Agdaban on Saturday and Sunday. According to the KNA, the villages housed a major base of Azerbaijan's army in Mardakert District. According to Armenian sources, during the fighting the Karabakh self-defence forces put out of action 5 Azeri tanks, 3 armoured vehicles and 4 artillery pieces.